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Labor delivers to SNILD 2 boxes of voided checks, overpayment receipts. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 177
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2021
www.saipantribune.com
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$1

'WE WILL NEVER FORGET'
Ahead of the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, 500 U.S. flags were erected in front of American Memorial Park's Court of Honor and Flag Circle last Saturday as part of the Field of Heroes commemoration. The Field of Heroes is a static display arranged by TanHoldings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. The flags will be displayed from Sept. 4 to 30. Photo taken by licensed commercial drone pilot BJ Eddy. Check out his YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/mydiGis7xwY. BJ EDDY

500 stimulus cards out soon

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Atalig expects distribution of new batch this month

Division of Revenue and Taxation director Tracy Norita disclosed Friday that they just closed last week a batch of about 500 new CNMI stimulus cards that will soon be mailed out to taxpayers.

Atalig

Speaking about the stimulus card distribution during a radio press briefing, Norita said the batch of 500 new stimulus cards is currently with their card processor.

"We will print the cards and mail them to each taxpayer's last known address," she said.

At the same press briefing, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said many of those who did not receive their local stimulus card was due to a lack

See 500 on Page 4

3,500 COVID-19 vaccines received last Friday

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. received last Friday an order for 3,500 COVID-19 vaccine doses, ensuring that it has enough doses to bring the CNMI beyond the target of 80% inoculations for the entire CNMI.

In explaining how COVID-19 vaccines for the CNMI are ordered, Heather S. Pangelinan, Maternal, Infant, Child,

See VACCINES on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Two anchors of COVID safety net ending, affecting millions

By ASHRAF KHALIL and LISA MASCARO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)— Mary Taboniar went 15 months without a paycheck, thanks to the COVID pandemic. A housekeeper at the Hilton Hawaiian Village resort in Honolulu, the single mother of two saw her income com-

See ANCHORS on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:36pm, Sept. 6, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	79.5%
Days since last community transmission	167

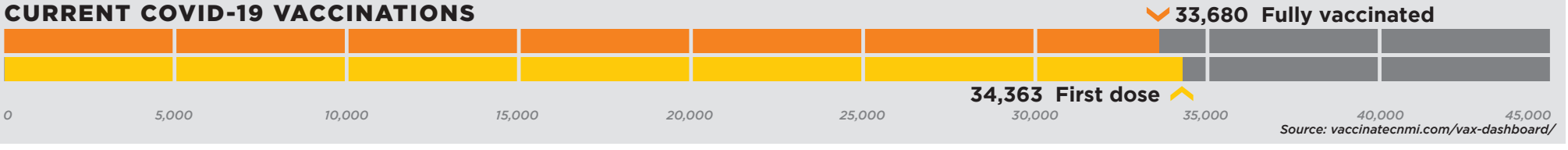
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,560
Fully Vaccinated:	28,625
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,803
Fully Vaccinated:	4,291
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	764

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	11,106	0	11,106
Recovered	9,126	0	9,126
Active	1,829	0	1,829
Deaths	150	1	151

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	248	0	248
Traced via Travel Screening	211	0	211
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

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Before Sept. 11, 2001, overall the airport experience meant far less stress and security checks.

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"Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" smashes the record for Labor Day openings.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

DYS hopes to extend rental assistance for another year

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The grant that allowed the Division of Youth Services to provide rental assistance to families who have been displaced by Typhoon Mangkhut or Super Typhoon Yutu is set to end on Sept. 30, 2021, but the division hopes that the program will be extended for another year.

During a guest appearance on KKMP radio last Tuesday, DYS director Vivian Sablan said that 13 families are currently availing of the Home Rental Assistance Program, which is set to end this year on Sept. 30. She said that DYS' plans for HRAP for the 2022 fiscal year has already been reviewed and accepted by the program's main grantor. Next up for DYS would be to receive a grant award letter from the grantor and receiving the grants, which will provide DYS with the resources to extend HRAP for another year.

HRAP is a program that allows families who were directly displaced by Mangkhut or Yutu to avail of rental assistance through DYS.

Jennifer Tanaka, supervisor for DYS' Family and Youth Enhancement Program, who joined Sablan at the radio guesting, explained that HRAP is available to all families in the CNMI who have been directly displaced by Mangkhut or Yutu, and that applications can be found online at dys.gov.mp, picked up at the Kagman Community Center, or at any of DYS' offices on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota.

When asked last Tuesday if DYS is still taking applications for HRAP, Sablan said that families are welcome to apply and be put on a waitlist. As HRAP's current grant ends on Sept. 30, Sablan said these applications will be on the waitlist until DYS receives a grant award letter. Once grants are secured for HRAP, DYS will assess if the program can take in additional families, and will publicly announce the extension of HRAP for one more year when the time comes.

According to the DYS website, HRAP is made possible through what is called the Community Services Block Grant-Disaster Supplemental funds. Through these funds, HRAP is currently able to provide seven months of rental assistance to 17 qualifying families.

Application Deadline: December 10, 2021

CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
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Torres open to internet gaming

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday that he supports internet gaming in the CNMI if the Commonwealth Casino Commission's projection holds true—that it can generate as much as $28.14 million in gross gaming revenue for 2022 alone.

When asked during his regular radio press briefing if he is open to the establishment of internet gaming in the Commonwealth given the CCC's projection, Torres said the CNMI has funds now through federal programs but, at the end of the day, the CNMI needs additional revenue.

» Governor asks Legislature to look into internet gaming to generate additional revenue

He said he asked the Legislature to look at revenue-generating bills and that new industries are opportunities to generate revenue. "I'm not asking to tax our community or additional tax for that matter," the governor said.

Torres hopes the Legislature can look into internet gaming and act on it. "I hope that we can have that industry here in the next year or so. That'll help all of us—the economy, hiring new people, new opportunities," he said.

The governor hopes that will also have ripple effects in a way where other businesses might be enticed to come in and do other businesses in the CNMI.

Citing his study and market research on internet gaming, CCC executive director Andrew Yeom recently informed the CCC board of directors that based on his projections for 2023, 2024, and 2025, the CNMI can collect $112.56 million, $252.63 million, and $449.4 million, respectively.

Yeom, who has over 14 years of online gaming executive background in South Korea, pointed out, though, in his presentation before the CCC board that it's only a projection, which means it could be wrong.

Yeom said if all works well with internet gaming in the CNMI, a CNMI-based online gambling site could have the potential to attract up to 2.1 million online users annually, generating roughly $450 million in gross gaming revenue starting in 2025 and beyond.

He said the growth in online casinos is primarily due to user demand for a digital experience, COVID-19 complications around brick and mortar casinos, and more states legalizing online gambling products.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) has filed House Bill 22-47 that seeks to allow senatorial districts to establish and regulate internet gaming.

ON SNILD JGO COMMITTEE'S OVERSIGHT HEARING ON PUA, PFUC

Labor delivers to SNILD box of voided checks, box of overpayment receipts

» DeLeon Guerrero hopes OPA will audit the documents

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation received a box of copies of voided CNMI Treasury checks and one box of overpayment receipts from the CNMI Department of Labor last week in relation to the Committee's oversight hearing on the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program.

Committee chair Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said yesterday that the two boxes will be made part of the SNILD JGO Committee's records by first scanning them so to ensure than an electronic record of the documents are preserved and are readily available for audit.

The senator stated that more questions developed and an audit is necessary to qualify and validate the more than $20 million overpayment that was said to have been collected and returned to the federal grantor, U.S. Department of Labor.

She said she would expect the involvement of the Office of the Inspector General to carry out audits, investigations, other actions provided under the Coronavirus, Recovery, and Economic Security Act and American Rescue Plan Act.

The CNMI Department of Labor delivered last week one box full of copies of voided CNMI Treasury checks and one box full of overpayment receipts to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee in relation to the committee's oversight hearing on the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DeLeon Guerrero also hopes the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor will also audit the documents.

The senator said the box of voided CNMI Treasury checks contains no ledger or validation sheet of each check and the overall total amount of checks voided. She said were these checks mailed out and the question of whether the CNMI Department of Finance has reconciled its checks that were voided is just one of their concerns.

DeLeon Guerrero said the box of overpayment receipts, on the other hand, shows the business units the funds were said to have been returned to. However, she said, there is no validation of the business units fund status reports that can quantify the total amounts of overpayments that subsequently reduced the cumulative expenditures of the respective business units as a result of the collected overpayments.

"In accounting, debits and credits must always balance. The two boxes, unfortunately, do not provide those financial validations," DeLeon Guerrero pointed out.

Last month, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente told the SNILD JGO Committee that to date, they have traced $31.1 million overpayments in PUA, Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, and Lost Wages, and collected $28 million from such overpayments.

With the PUA program expiring last Saturday, Benavente said that roughly over $230 million in federal funds have been disbursed for all three PUA stages.

Benavente said the U.S. Labor allocated roughly $700 million specifically for unemployment assistance in the CNMI. Of the $700 million, she said, only $230 million has been used so far.

With the submissions of claims and applications extended to October 2021, though, Labor expects to pay out thousands more of PUA claims.

Benavente said they received close to 40,000 PUA applications, including fraudulent ones, but only around 10,000 were deemed eligible.

Manpower agency owner pleads guilty to visa fraud

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The owner of a manpower agency that was arrested over charges of fraud and misuse of visa permits has pleaded guilty.

Alejandro Tumandao Nario, president and owner of A&A Enterprises, a manpower agency that provides employee labor services to businesses and individuals, pleaded guilty before U.S District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona last week to one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

At the change of plea hearing last week, Nario was represented by court-appointed attorney Steven Pixley while Shey Owens served as the defendant's Filipino interpreter. Meanwhile, assistant U.S. Attorney Albert Flores Jr. appeared via video teleconference.

Manglona accepted the plea and found Nario guilty of the offense.

Pursuant to the plea agreement, Nario will remain released pending sentencing, which is set for Dec. 17 at 9am.

According to court documents, Nario was accused of petitioning CW-1 visas for non-existing jobs for foreign nationals, and requiring them to pay "routine taxes."

On July 9, 2021, U.S. Homeland Security Investigation agents and CNMI Department of Public Safety police officers executed arrest warrants at A&A Enterprise. Nario and Mylene Basco Casupanan, an employee of A&A Enterprises, were placed under custody.

Casupanan was charged separately with one count of conspiracy to defraud the U.S.

According to the indictment, Casupanan conspired with Nario to defraud the U.S. in filing CW-1 petitions to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy released Casupanan on an unsecured bond in the amount of $1,000 with conditions, and scheduled his jury trial for Sept. 14, 2021.

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Villagomez endorses Magofna in special election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is endorsing the candidacy of former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. budget officer Corina L. Magofna, who is running under the NMI Democratic Party for a seat in the House of Representatives Precinct 3 in the upcoming Oct. 16 special election.

Villagomez said change won't happen overnight but what he has seen is what strong Democratic women bring to the table.

Villagomez

"Women are the backbones of our societies and Corina has all the qualities for the type of leadership that is required," he said.

The speaker said he looks forward to what the House can accomplish in Precinct 3.

Magofna, 46, was the Democratic Party's Precinct 3 candidate at the November 2020 election. She landed in seventh place—just 34 votes short of victory.

For the past three and half years, she served as CUC's budget officer. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Accounting from the University of Phoenix, and an associate degree in Accounting from the University of Hawaii.

A special election will be held to fill the seat left vacant by the sudden passing of representative Ivan A. Blanco.

Registration is still ongoing and that the last day to register is Sept. 17. The seven-day early voting will start on Oct. 9.

ANCHORS

From Page 1

pletely vanish as the virus devastated the hospitality industry.

For more than a year, Taboniar depended entirely on boosted unemployment benefits and a network of local foodbanks to feed her family. Even this summer as the vaccine rollout took hold and tourists began to travel again, her work was slow to return, peaking at 11 days in August—about half her pre-pandemic workload.

Taboniar is one of millions of Americans for whom Labor Day 2021 represents a perilous crossroads. Two primary anchors of the government's COVID protection package are ending or have recently ended. Starting Monday, an estimated 8.9 million people will lose all unemployment benefits. A federal eviction moratorium already has expired.

While other aspects of pandemic assistance including rental aid and the expanded Child Tax Credit are still widely available, untold millions of Americans will face Labor Day with a suddenly shrunken social safety net.

"This will be a double whammy of hardship," said Jamie Contreras, secretary-treasurer of the SEIU, a union that represents custodians in office buildings and food service workers in airports. "We're not anywhere near done. People still need help. ... For millions of people nothing has changed from a year and a half ago."

For Taboniar, 43, that means her unemployment benefits will completely disappear—even as her work hours vanish again. A fresh virus surge prompted Hawaii's governor to recommend that vacationers delay their plans.

"It's really scaring me," she said. "How can I pay rent if I don't have unemployment and my job isn't back?"

She's planning to apply for the newly expanded SNAP assistance program, better known as food stamps, but doubts that will be enough to make up the difference. "I'm just grasping for anything," she said.

President Joe Biden's administration believes the U.S. economy is strong enough not to be rattled by evictions or the drop in unemployment benefits. Officials maintain that other elements of the safety net, like the Child Tax Credit and the SNAP program (which Biden permanently boosted earlier this summer) are enough to smooth things over. On Friday, a White House spokesperson said there were no plans to reevaluate the end of the unemployment benefits.

Mary Taboniar, a housekeeper at the Hilton Hawaiian Village resort in Honolulu, looks over bills at her home in Waipahu, Hawaii, Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021. AP

"Twenty-two-trillion-dollar economies work in no small part on momentum and we have strong momentum going in the right direction on behalf of the American workforce," said Jared Bernstein, a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

Labor Secretary Marty Walsh said he believed the country's labor force was ready for the shift.

"Overall the economy is moving forward and recovering," Walsh said in an interview. "I think the American economy and the American worker are in a better position going into Labor Day 2021 than they were on Labor Day 2020."

Walsh and others point to encouraging job numbers; as of Friday the unemployment rate was down to a fairly healthy 5.2%. But Andrew Stettler, a senior fellow with the Century Foundation, a left-leaning think tank, says the end of the expanded unemployment benefits is still coming too early.

Rather than setting an arbitrary deadline, Stettler says the administration should have tied the end of the the protections to specific economic recovery metrics. He suggests three consecutive months with nationwide unemployment below 5% as a reasonable benchmark to trigger the end of the unemployment benefits.

"This does seem to be the wrong policy decision based on where we are," Stettler said.

The end to these protections while the economic crisis persists could have a devastating impact on lower-middle class families that were barely holding on through the pandemic. Potentially millions of people "will have a more difficult time regaining the foothold in the middle class that they lost," Stettler said.

Biden and the Democrats who control Congress are at a crossroads, allowing the aid to expire as they focus instead on his more sweeping "build back better" package of infrastructure and other spending. The $3.5 trillion proposal would rebuild many of the safety net programs, but it faces hurdles in the closely divided Congress.

In the meantime, families will have to make do.

"These are two very important things that are expiring. There's no doubt that there will be families impacted by their expiration and that they will have additional hardship," Sharon Parrott, the president of the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, said in an interview.

The COVID-19 response has been sweeping in its size and scope, some $5 trillion in federal expenditures since the virus outbreak in 2020, an unprecedented undertaking.

Congressional Republicans had supported some of the initial COVID-19 outlays, but voted lockstep against Biden's $1.9 trillion recovery package earlier this year as unnecessary. Many argued against extending another round of unemployment aid, and Republicans vow to oppose Biden's $3.5 trillion package lawmakers are expected to consider later this month.

There are still multiple avenues of support available, although in some cases the actual delivery of that support has been problematic.

States with higher levels of unemployment can use the $350 billion worth of aid they received from the relief package to expand their own jobless payments, as noted by an Aug. 19 letter by Walsh and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

Federal rental assistance funds remain available, though the money has been slow to get out the door, leaving the White House and lawmakers pushing state and local officials to disperse funds more quickly to both landlords and tenants.

The investment bank Morgan Stanley estimated Thursday that the economy will grow at an annual pace of 2.9% in the third quarter, down sharply from its prior forecast of 6.5%. That decline largely reflects a pullback in federal aid spending and supply chain bottlenecks.

And the economy still faces hurdles. Union officials says sectors like hotel housekeepers and office janitorial staffs have been the slowest to recover.

"Our industry is the tip of the spear when it comes to COVID," said D. Taylor, president of UNITE HERE, a union that represents hotel housekeepers—a field that is "primarily staffed by women and people of color."

Many of those housekeepers never returned to full employment even as Americans resumed traveling and hotel occupancy rates swelled over the summer.

Taylor said several major hotel chains have moved to permanently cut down on labor costs by reducing levels of service under the guise of COVID. Taboniar's hotel in Hawaii for example has shifted to cleaning rooms every five days unless the guest specifically requests otherwise in advance. Even as the hotel was at more than 90% occupancy in August, she was only employed for half her usual pre-pandemic number of days.

The delta variant of the coronavirus also poses a challenge, threatening future school closures and the delay of plans to return workers to their offices.

Walsh called the delta variant "an asterisk on everything."

500

From Page 1

of a 2020 tax return. He said majority of those who did not receive the cards are zero-income taxpayers. He said these taxpayers must still submit a 2020 zero income tax return in order to be included in the next batch of distribution of stimulus cards.

"We are trying to get another stimulus batch out this month, the month of September," Atalig said.

He assured that they won't close the CNMI stimulus cards program if there are still people who are eligible and qualified to receive the local stimulus.

"We will send that out to them. And so please be patient with our [Division of] Tax & Revenue team. They're doing their best to try to help everyone and all of those in our community," Atalig said.

He recently disclosed that they have already distributed over 20,000 stimulus cards, but they are aware that there are still some who have not gotten their cards yet.

Norita said they did receive a lot of questions regarding the additional funds that that they did not receive on their stimulus card. Norita said it is maybe because it was based off on a 2019 tax return and they're entitled to additional funds.

"That programming is still in progress for additional funds to the stimulus card. So yes, we are working on that. We have still the end of the year to complete the programming and the issuance of payments," she said.

As for those who lost their stimulus cards or whose cards were stolen, or those with activation issues, Norita said they can call the call center at 664-1040 starting today, Tuesday.

"Our call center agents will be able to help them suspend their cards if needed. And what will happen is they they'd have to come in and request for a replacement of the lost or stolen card," she said.

Norita said those having any activation issues may also call and the Call Center would be able to walk them through the process to see if there's any issues that need to be cleared.

Eligible individuals are receiving $500, plus $500 for each dependent.

Finance earlier stated that they expect to distribute $25 million for 28,000 local stimulus checks using American Rescue Plan Act money.

VACCINES

From Page 1

& Adolescent Health Programs administrator for CHCC, said that CHCC reviews past data on vaccinations completed, and orders vaccines based on projected need. By reviewing collected data, CHCC projects how many individuals will be vaccinated and how often to order more vaccine batches. The most recent order of vaccines was received on Sept. 3, where CHCC received 3,500 doses, she said.

Vaccines are ordered by CHCC directly through an online mechanism managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the orders are fulfilled by a U.S.-based vaccine manufacturer and flown out to the CNMI through United Airlines, Pangelinan said.

As for how the Pfizer vaccine's ultra-cold temperature requirements are maintained during transit, Pangelinan explained that the vaccines are transported from the United States to the CNMI in thermal shipper boxes containing dry ice. The shipper boxes contain temperature logging devices with data logging capabilities, allowing CHCC to regularly monitor the storage temperatures of the vaccines all the way up to when it receives the delivery.

"CHCC reviews [these temperature data logs] to ensure that there were no temperature excursions and that the vaccines are safe for use," said Pangelinan.

Dboi Cruz is Tinian's Overall Employee of the Year

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Dachelbai "Dboi" Borja Cruz, who works for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Tinian office, was named Overall Employee of the Year for the Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan during Tinian's Labor Day celebration last Friday at the Tinian Fiesta Grounds.

Cruz was joined at the ceremony by eight other distinguished employees representing their respective departments. Recognized on Tinian last Friday alongside Cruz were: Rachel P. Cing from the Department of Public Works; Lucia M. Borja from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs; Kim King from the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services; Dustin K. Sablan from the Department of Public Safety; Jeanette H. Borja from the Department of Labor; Estevan SN. King from the Department of Commerce; Vicenta Villagomez from the Tinian Municipal Council; and Jose M. Atalig from the Tinian Mayor's Office.

Dachelbai "Dboi" Borja Cruz, third from left, an employee at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Tinian office, poses with Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan and eight other distinguished employees after being named Overall Employee of the Year for the Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan during Tinian's Labor Day celebration held at the Tinian Fiesta Grounds on Friday, Sept. 3. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joseph Hocog, rvent coordinator for the Tinian Mayor's Office, said Sunday that Mayor Edwin P. Aldan and his staff wanted to "continue with the traditional practice in celebration of our hard working laborers" with a special focus this year on the island's front-liners.

Hocog said that Fr. Anthony Aguason, the pastor for San Jose on Tinian, kicked off last Friday's celebration with a Labor Day prayer, which was then followed by congratulatory remarks from the Tinian leadership, awards, and games, and Big Jay Selepeo providing live entertainment from Friday evening until the end of the event.

Sablan files bill to establish Qualified Medical Travel Assistance Program

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) has introduced a bill that seeks to reform and restructure the Medical Referral Services by establishing the CNMI Qualified Medical Travel Assistance Program within the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The purposes of Sablan's House Bill 22-77 are also to provide transition of off-island medical referral services administration and operations to CHCC and streamline assistance for eligible patients with a demonstrated need to access tertiary care.

Sablan

The bill will allow CHCC to integrate patient care and respond quickly to changes in the capacity of on-island healthcare providers to treat residents of the CNMI, while operating within budgetary appropriations for the program.

Sablan, who chairs the House of Representatives Health and Welfare Committee, has expressed appreciation to her colleagues both from the Democratic Party and the Republican Party who provided her feedback and supported this bill.

Sablan said the bill seeks to provide the necessary legal authority, protections for CHCC, and basic parameters for a program that is dear to the community and enables access to healthcare when services are unavailable on the islands.

She said the bill was drafted in coordination with CHCC, and in consideration of comments from the Office of the Attorney General, the Medical Referral Services program, the Department of Finance, the Special Assistant for Administration, the mayors and health center directors of Rota and Tinian, and concerned citizens.

The House Health and Welfare Committee held four public hearings on the bill on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in May, and reviewed written and oral testimonies as well as relevant reports and data submitted by the agencies.

Sablan stated in the bill that the Medical Referral Program, as it is presently constituted outside of the existing healthcare system, cannot efficiently perform its duties to assist residents of the CNMI in accessing healthcare services that are unavailable in their home island municipalities or within the Commonwealth.

Historically and currently, the program has struggled not just to contain costs, Sablan said, but also to minimize lengths of stay at referral healthcare facilities, to ensure inter-facility medical communication and effective case management, and to improve the coordination of care for referral patients.

She said the program has been in operation in the absence of any enabling legislation to establish legal authority and parameters.

For many years, the lawmaker pointed out, the CNMI government has failed to budget adequately for the program.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) has referred the bill to Health and Welfare Committee, which Sablan chairs.

Sablan said they will soon be scheduling another public meeting for further review and mark-up.

The bill's other sponsors are Villagomez, floor leader Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan), and Reps. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan), Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan), Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan), Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian), and Roy Ada (R-Saipan).

Public and private partners wanted for PSS co-op program

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System is inviting companies and agencies to partner up with PSS's Cooperative Education Program to provide on-the-job training for the program's students for PSS' fall semester.

For the current semester, job training through the co-op program is slated to begin on Sept. 20 and conclude on Dec. 9. Student recruitment and assignment to their respective job sites will be done virtually, and will take place the week before training starts.

PSS is seeking public and/or private sector companies and agencies who are able to identify a staff member who will serve as a mentor for the co-op students for the duration of the training, and are able to provide students with 180 total hours of on-the-job training from September to October.

PSS asks interested companies and agencies to reach out to co-op program coordinator Brandon Nicholas through email at brandon.nicholas@cnmipss.org or through phone at 664-3822.

In the interest of safety for the co-op program's students and partners during the COVID-19 pandemic, all protocols currently set forth by PSS and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force will be followed. Additionally, the program itself will provide its students with personal protective equipment.

Guam's G3 receives nat'l award for sustainability leadership

The University of Guam is one of 11 universities to win a 2021 Excellence and Innovation Award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

The UOG Center for Island Sustainability received the Sustainability and Sustainable Development Award for facilitating climate and sustainability solutions in the community through the island-wide Guam Green Growth (G3) Initiative.

"To receive one of 11 awards among the association's membership of 400 public colleges and universities is quite telling that we—as a university and as an island—are not only effectively leading our community in sustainability solutions, but we're setting an example nationwide," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise.

AASCU president and CEO Mildred García said the UOG Center for Island Sustainability was selected by the awards committee "for its outstanding results and potential to influence and serve as a model for other institutions."

Guam Green Growth is an islandwide initiative to locally implement the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It is the most comprehensive public-private partnership ever created achieve a sustainable future for Guam.

"MAN METGOT-NA HIT KI I TA HONGGO
YA SIÑA TA APATTA HIT GINEN INI NA
TAOTAO HIYONG SIHA YA TA NA' TA' LO
TATTE I MINAGOF YAN I MINAOLEK
LINA' LA' - TA."
WE ARE STRONGER THAN WE THINK! WE MUST REGAIN
OUR FORMER FREEDOM.
CHIEF HURAO
1671

The Guam Green Growth Working Group stands beneath a quote by Chief Hurao—"Satisfied with what our islands furnish us, we desire nothing else" —at the group's inaugural meeting on Jan. 30, 2020, at the Sen. Antonio M. Palomo Guam Museum & Educational Facility in Hagåtña.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM CENTER FOR ISLAND SUSTAINABILITY

The Center for Island Sustainability has facilitated the initiative, which brought together 99 individuals from all sectors of society appointed through Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero's Executive Order 2019-23. The working group members developed an "Action Framework" that was formally adopted by the governor in September 2020 and now guides implementation of the 17 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals in locally and culturally effective ways.

"Guam Green Growth is a remarkable partnership between all sectors of our society to create a sustainable future for our island," the governor said. "Congratulations to the University of Guam for this distinct and well-deserved honor as the facilitators of this islandwide movement."

Austin Shelton, director of the Center for Island Sustainability and co-chair of the G3 Steering Committee, said this is an award for the working group members from the community as well, who took a personal interest in the island's future and dedicated their time and expertise to creating this plan.

"Thanks to all the dedicated G3 Working Group members and supporters," Shelton said. "Guam is demonstrating that we are a global leader in island sustainability. Through G3, we are taking local action to ensure a sustainable global future."

The university will be officially recognized among the other awardees during the 2021 AASCU Annual Meeting on Nov. 7 in Florida. ***(PR)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237
info@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, September 09, 2021 at 09:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan MP 96950.

The Marianas
Saipan | Tinian | Rota

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      i. Regular Board Meeting – August 04, 2021
      ii. Special Board Meeting – August 06, 2021
      iii. Emergency Special Board Meeting – August 20, 2021
      iv. Special Board Meeting – August 27, 2021
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   a. Finance Committee
      i. Fund Status Report
         1. Reprogramming of Funds
            a. Cultural Promotions
            b. Sponsorship
            c. Travel
      ii. CNMI Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP)
         1. Korea
         2. Japan
         3. Creation of TRIP Micronesia Adhoc Committee
4) **New Business**
   a. Reissue New RFP for MVA Desk Audit
   b. Request to Establish RFP Evaluation Committees for the following:
      i. MVA Japan
      ii. Global Branding
      iii. MVA Office Space
   c. Request to Issue ITB for Garapan Trash Collection
   d. Request to Extend MVA Representation, Promotional, and Public Relation Services Contracts
      i. MVA-RFP-16-2336 – Access Inc, (MVA Japan)
      ii. MVA-RFP-16-2335 – AVIAREPS Marketing Garden (MVA Taiwan)
   e. Cultural Heritage Month
      i. Collaboration with Indigenous Affairs and Carolinian Affairs
   f. World Tourism Day
5) **Old Business**
   a. Municipalities (No Cost MOU Extensions)
      i. Saipan
      ii. Rota
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
   a. Asiana Airlines Response Letter
8) **Adjournment**

/s/Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB21-CHCC/CGC-CCP-001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLES"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-035
SUBMISSION DATE: September 29, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.

"Renovation of Government House No. 1253 Capitol Hill, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **August 31, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 17, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Project Site Government House No. 1253**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 22, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ HELEN C. SABLAN
STATE MEDICAID AGENCY DIRECTOR

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ONE Chief Accountant/Accounting Manager
(1) ONE ACCOUNTANT

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

HR Office
Herman's Modern Bakery Inc.
P.O. Box 500002 Saipan, MP 96950
By Facsimile: (670) 288-1726; or by e-mail: hr@hermansbakery.com
WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
MVA-RFP-21-2039
For: Marianas Visitors Authority Office Space Lease on the island of Saipan, MP 96950

Submission /Closing Date: **September 09, 2021** Time: **1:00PM (ChST)**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after **August 26, 2021** at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00AM to 5:00PM (ChST), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference "MVA-RFP-21-2039" on the subject line to lmaratita@mymarianas.com

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

CITING CONCERNS OVER COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT

FSM extends pre-quarantine period, requires two tests prior to entry

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The Federated States of Micronesia is extending the mandatory Guam-based pre-quarantine for repatriating citizens and residents to 10 days from its previous requirement of just seven days.

Acting on the advice of the COVID-19 Task Force, Federated States of Micronesia president David W. Panuelo on Friday made the decision to extend the pre-quarantine period to allow the FSM government to implement two COVID-19 tests to repatriating persons prior to their arrival into FSM. Previously, such repatriating persons only required a single COVID-19 test while in pre-quarantine.

The decision cited concerns over the delta variant of COVID-19. An FSM government press statement said the more transmissible and virulent delta variant has resulted in mobile morgues in Hawaii and the installation of medical tents in Guam due to hospital overflow.

"The primary reason for extending pre-quarantine to 10 days instead of seven is to give us ample time to conduct two COVID-19 tests to repatriating persons before they come into the country," Panuelo said in a statement. "Guam is significantly more vaccinated than the FSM, and is equipped with superior resources, and yet our Guamanian brothers and sisters are finding the delta variant extraordinarily challenging. The takeaway for us in the FSM, then, is to strengthen our efforts at keeping COVID-19 out of our country. Our nation's top medical experts suggest that the way to keep ourselves safe is to mandate a second test in pre-quarantine. Simply canceling repatriation flights is not politically or economically feasible because the results would mean numerous schools shutting down, infrastructure projects being lost, and assets for tackling illegal fishing being shifted elsewhere."

Panuelo

All other requirements for repatriation into the FSM remain unchanged, such as possession of documentary evidence of persons being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and the submission of appropriate forms.

Two repatriation flights are scheduled to arrive from Guam to the state of Pohnpei on Sept. 16 and Sept. 30, 2021, respectively. The latter of these flights is predominantly focused on essential workers such as doctors, engineers, and teachers. The states of Yap and Kosrae have described their intentions for a repatriation flight during the month of September but the dates for those flights are to be determined. The state of Chuuk has described that it may be prepared for its first direct repatriation flight sometime in the month of October 2021.

As of Sept. 6, 2021, precisely 560 persons have been repatriated into FSM. Of this number, 485 persons have been repatriated to Pohnpei; 38 have been repatriated to Kosrae; and 37 have been repatriated to Yap.

As of Sept. 6, 2021, approximately 60% of the nation's adult population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and approximately 70% of the adult population is partially vaccinated.

FSM remains COVID-19 free. ***(PR)***

Castro joins Aqua Resort Club's F&B department

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Amapola Castro's ready smile and quick service has always served her in good stead.

Starting out at the Hyatt Regency Saipan as a lobby bartender, she rose up the ranks and now with 26 years in the food and beverage business under her belt, Castro—more affectionately known as "Pola"—brings her skills and experience to the food and beverage department of Aqua Resort Club in San Roque as its assistant food and beverage manager.

Castro

"I started with ARC in July and I am happy to be back in the hospitality business. This is what I am passionate about even after so many years of being in the business. My heart still belongs to this industry," she said. "I am excited to be in a new environment and work with new people. There are challenges but I believe they can be overcome and achieved. One advantage is that I have worked with my boss, F&B manager Neil Metran, in the past and because of the same passion we share to serve and make guests happy, our chemistry will hopefully make the F&B service in ARC a better one that guests will look forward to when they come here."

One of the things she is tasked to do at ARC is to revitalize Michelle's Bar by the pool and add new alcoholic and non-alcoholic items to its cocktail list that will cater to the young and old alike.

"Michelle's Bar by the pool is beautifully situated between the hotel and the ocean. …On Saipan, it is very rare to have this kind of setup and now that we are back to operating every day, we intend to make people excited to come to Michelle's Bar after a long day at work or even just to catch up with family and friends, surrounded by a great ambiance such as the Saipan sunset," she said.

The new set of cocktails that they have come up with are envisioned to send good vibes, like "riding on a wave" because the concoction is basically refreshing. "The cocktails will be a combination of fruits that are in season and others that we can find in the market and mixed with herbal leaves like mint and basil. One of our non-alcoholic drink is our 'mixed berry lemonade' that we are sure children will love and for the adults, our 'basil mango mojito' stands out," she said.

Castro said that Michelle's Bar is open Monday to Saturday from 11am to 5pm, Friday from 11am to 9pm, Saturday from 11am to 9pm and Sunday from 11am to 7pm. "Aside from new menu list , it is Happy Hour all day, which means they can enjoy 50% off on all drinks at Michelle's Bar."

Metran believes in Castro's capabilities in bringing into fruition all of ARC's food and beverage plans. "Pola knows her craft and she is a great addition to our ARC family. She has a deep knowledge of the hospitality business on Saipan and we are excited to work with her," he said.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION
ADDENDUM NO. 1
RFQ21-DOF/OIT-162

"PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVIES FOR THE CNMI GOVERNMENT REVENUE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT"

Due to internal error, the Department of Finance – Office of Information Technology will be extending the Request for Qualification Submission and Opening of the above reference RFQ.

- Pre-proposal Questions: Any pre-proposal questions and/or clarifications shall be submitted to Vinney Atalig Hocog via e-mail at rfq@dof.gov.mp no later than *the close of business, September 3, 2021* is changed to read **no later than the close of business, September 17, 2021.**
- Sealed bid submittals for this project must be submitted with **one (1) original and two (2) copies** to the Office of Director of Procurement Services located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than *09:30 a.m., local time, September 24, 2021* is changed to read **no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, October 08, 2021** and must be marked **RFQ21-DOF/OIT-162.**
- Bidders outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director of Procurement Services, in writing, of their intent to submit a Notice of Intent to Bid in order to receive this additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual bid documents. This Notice of Intent to Bid may be any mode of written communication including facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or emailed to sp.cabrera@dof.gov.mp but must be received no later than *09:30 a.m., local time, September 24, 2021* is changed to read **no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, October 08, 2021.**
- Bids submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country by *October 04, 2021* is changed to read **October 28, 2021** and mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement Services to P.O. Box 510008, C.K., Saipan, MP 96950 and the bid documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement Services no later than *October 04, 2021* is changed to read **October 28, 2021**.
- Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement Services located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at *09:30 a.m., local time, October 05, 2021* is changed to read **09:30 a.m., local time, October 29, 2021.** However, if no Notice of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at *09:30 a.m., local time, September 24, 2021* is changed to read **no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, October 08, 2021.**

All requirements in the Invitation to Bid shall remain as stated.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70-30.3-730 prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent fees shall apply.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

/S/ JOSEPH O. TORRES
ACTING CHIEF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, SERVICES, DOF, OIT

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

End of Addendum No. 1

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ADDENDUM NO. 1
RFP21-DOF/OIT-163

"REVENUE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (RMIS) FOR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE"

Due to internal error, the Department of Finance – Office of Information Technology will be extending the Request for Qualification Submission and Opening of the above reference RFQ.

- Pre-proposal Questions – The last day for questions will be before *4:30 p.m. September 03, 2021 (ChST)* is changed to read **before 4:30 p.m. September 17, 2021** Questions should be submitted electronically via email to rfp@dof.gov.mp, please reference "RFP21-DOF/OIT-163" in the subject of the message.
- Sealed bid submittals for this project must be submitted with **one (1) original and two (2) copies** to the Office of Director of Procurement Services located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than *09:00 a.m., local time, September 24, 2021* is changed to read **no later than 09:00 a.m., local time, October 08, 2021** and must be marked **RFP21-DOF/OIT-163.**
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/S/ JOSEPH O. TORRES
ACTING CHIEF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, SERVICES, DOF, OIT

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

End of Addendum No. 1

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 177
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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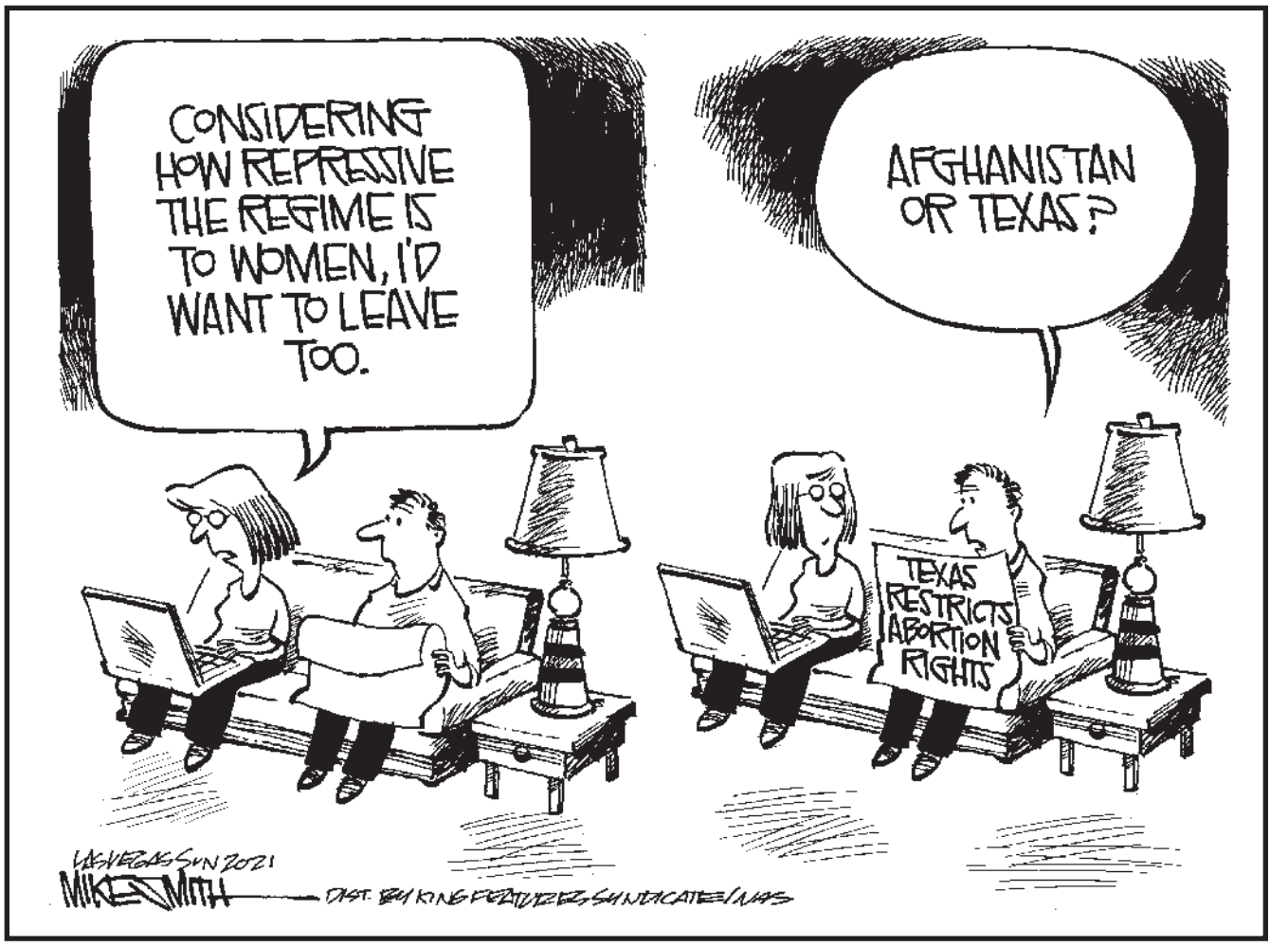

CONSIDERING HOW REPRESSIVE THE REGIME IS TO WOMEN, I'D WANT TO LEAVE TOO.
AFGHANISTAN OR TEXAS?
TEXAS RESTRICTS ABORTION RIGHTS
LAS VEGAS SUN 2021
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/IAS

By MIHIR SHARMA
Bloomberg Opinion

Mihir Swarup Sharma is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a senior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi and head of its Economy and Growth Programme. He is the author of Restart: The Last Chance for the Indian Economy*, and co-editor of* What the Economy Needs Now.

Biden is smart to stick to his dumb Afghanistan decision

Joe Biden's defense of his choice to leave Afghanistan gets more vehement with each speech he delivers. Every passing day might confirm that it was a bad decision with worse implementation; nevertheless, the president refuses to give an inch. He decided and, for better or worse, the rest of us have to live with the consequences.

While Biden has taken a hit in the polls, it's likely that he will emerge stronger from this moment. Not because the withdrawal has enhanced his reputation for competence or good sense, which it hasn't. But because Biden seems to have stumbled on the only formula that protects moderate leaders in a populist age: decisiveness.

Across the Atlantic, the world's longest-surviving political moderate will retire this month. Chancellor Angela Merkel has steered Germany and Europe for 16 years, and it is easy to think of the former chemist as cautious and technocratic. Surely the politician whose trademark is the restrained and perfectly balanced hand gesture known as the Merkel-Raute has succeeded because of her prudence?

Perhaps not. What has really set Merkel apart from most of her peers has been her willingness to make risky decisions and force others to stick by them.

During the eurozone crisis, she ensured that northern Europe would not protect the improvident south; during the pandemic, she chose the opposite course. She famously decided to open Germany's borders to hundreds of thousands of refugees in 2015—and, even when this proved both difficult to manage and politically unpopular, she refused to back down. "I made my decision based on what I thought was right from a political and humanitarian standpoint," she later declared. "I'd make all the important decisions of 2015 the same way again."

And then there's her decision, after the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2010, to wean Germany off nuclear energy. The move reversed the policy with which her party had just won an election and it has been a disaster for the climate; in the years that followed the shuttering of the nuclear plants that provided a quarter of Germany's power, the country's dependence on coal grew. Even today, Germany doesn't plan to close its last coal-burning plant until 2038.

To get a sense of how unfortunate the consequences of this decision have been, it's worth noting that coal-loving Donald Trump's term as president saw the U.S. close coal plants twice as fast as "climate chancellor" Merkel's Germany. And yet she has no regrets: Merkel declared at a news conference

See BIDEN on next page

An urgent plea from the last line of defense for our children

Editor's Note: *The names of the contributing writers appear at the end of the piece; there were too many to include in the byline.*

There are eight of us, all women, all physicians who take care of the sickest children in the nation in Pediatric Intensive Care Units in the Midwest, the East Coast, the West Coast and the South. Some of us work in community hospitals, and some of us work at nationally rated hospitals, the kind everyone knows.

We have an intense bond that has been formed over the last year and a half, even though most of us have never met in person. We initially connected on Twitter and have supported each other virtually as the pandemic has kept us separated yet living a shared experience. We discussed mask mandates and how our local communities are responding to the pandemic. We rejoiced when the COVID-19 vaccine was approved, and we discussed how and when we could get it for ourselves, our colleagues and our patients.

We celebrate each other's victories and mourn when things do not go the way we had hoped.

Over the last year and a half, we noticed something: Our group is an unintentional microcosm of pediatric providers throughout much of the nation. When we talked about vaccines, we saw that they were not distributed equitably, not here, and certainly not worldwide. Some of our units were eerily quiet during the winter, because our communities supported vaccines, mask mandates and social distancing, and some saw numbers rise and hopes plummet, because some of us work in areas where many people denied the dangers of COVID-19.

Recently, we noticed that things have been changing. While we had seen decreases in COVID-19 cases over the spring, cases began rising dramatically in many areas as the summer wore on. Some of us are now admitting kids with COVID-19 who are extremely sick, who need advanced life support measures like ventilators and heart-lung machines at rates much higher than earlier in the pandemic.

According to the CDC data tracker, in the beginning of June 2021, there were about 16 cases per 100,000 children ages 5-11; by the end of August 2021, there were 171 cases per 100,000 for the same age group. There were similar trends in every age group. More kids who are infected with COVID-19 are being hospitalized, likely because the delta variant is more infectious and more virulent. We see that reflected in the experiences of our own small group.

PICUs in some areas became full, and we started using connections to find placements for kids who needed critical care but whose local hospitals were out of space. But this was not true everywhere. While a unit in Kansas City was overwhelmed with patients, a unit in Chicago had not seen a COVID-19 patient in the PICU in six weeks. Our own experiences mirrored the inequities in the COVID-19 disease burden throughout the country.

Vaccine rates also vary dramatically between areas. While the FDA recently approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 for those ages 16 and older, with an emergency authorization use for those ages 12 to 15, younger children are not eligible. The vaccination rate in the 12-18 age group is rising, with 50-60% of eligible children receiving at least one dose, according to the CDC.

In a society where children under age 12 are not yet eligible for vaccination, we call on all adults to protect them. They need to go to school, but they need to do so safely. They need to live and thrive in communities that value their health, that take basic safety measures that will allow children to live as normally and as safely as possible. They need to wear masks in schools, in stores, when visiting friends. They need to continue seeing their pediatricians on a regular basis and get, on time, their shots for vaccine-preventable illnesses, such as measles, mumps, polio and rubella.

As pediatricians, we hear and speak out against dangerous misinformation, and we see the fear in our patients and families as the pandemic has worsened again. All of us have had conversations with friends and family about the pandemic. Many of us have lost loved ones to COVID-19.

We also hear the anger. One of us could not add her name to this piece for fear of the potential consequences.

We are extremely worried about the coming months because the system is already stretched.

Nationwide, there are only 5,400 PICU beds in the country. Two years ago, pre-COVID-19, there were times when there was not a single PICU bed in all of Chicago. We continue to care for children with cancer, with heart disease, with asthma or trauma.

The PICU is the last line of defense for children, but the system is not designed to take on this magnitude of preventable illnesses. This is what haunts us: the reality that we might not be able to care for every child who needs us. We are pro-vaccine, pro-masks and pro-child.

We are eight pediatric intensive care doctors standing together and asking you to stand up to protect children.

Written by Dr. Deanna Behrens, Dr. Jenna Miller, Dr. Yonca Bulut, Dr. Sapna Kudchadkar, Dr. Elizabeth Mack, Dr. Danielle Maue, and Dr. Katherine Hoops.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Americans who say they pay taxes are probably lying

By JARED DILLIAN
Bloomberg Opinion

Jared Dillian is the editor and publisher of The Daily Dirtnap*, investment strategist at Mauldin Economics, and the author of* Street Freak *and* All the Evil of This World*. He may have a stake in the areas he writes about.*

The Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center recently released a report saying that 61% of U.S. households had paid no federal income tax in 2020, up from 44% in 2019, as the pandemic led to high unemployment and loss of income. Although the number will likely revert to the mid-40% range over time, now is probably a good time to have a discussion about what the right percentage of people paying taxes should be.

But first, it's always good to point out that while about half of Americans don't pay income taxes, almost everyone who is employed pays payroll taxes of some sort in the form of the 6.2% that is withheld from the first $142,800 of income. It's important to draw the distinction between income taxes and payroll taxes. Philosophically speaking, payroll taxes are intended to fund one's own social security. Income taxes are intended to fund government spending, which has been increasing every year. The burden of funding the government falls on a smaller number of taxpayers. The top 20% of taxpayers paid 78% of federal income taxes in 2020, up from 68% in 2019, according to the Tax Policy Center.

What is the right number of people who should be exempt from paying income taxes? Most reasonable people should agree that number is far less than 61%. A household in the 61st percentile of income makes just under $90,000 a year. Almost nobody would consider a household income of $90,000 as affluent, but there is plenty of room to contribute. Consider that the median household income is $68,400, and that Bureau of Labor Statistics data from 2017 show that a typical household with $73,500 in pre-tax income has over $6,000 in savings and over $3,000 in entertainment expenses.

Except for the truly indigent, which I would characterize as households making less than $28,000 a year, we can all chip in. The idea of someone paying no income taxes is offensive to us all, no matter what their wealth and income. They don't have to pay the same amount in percentage terms, but everyone should have a small financial stake in being a U.S. citizen. It's what's called "having skin in the game."

This has very little to do with revenue generation (although if the government really was interested in raising more revenue, it would be easier to do it with the middle class than with the rich). It's the principle that very little is asked of U.S. citizens in terms of participating in civic society. There is no military draft or compulsory service. Voting is not mandatory. All we should ask is that we all do our part and contribute a small amount to the cost of running the government. If people did, they might feel differently about its size and scope. Think of it as Homeowners Association, or HOA dues—nobody likes paying them, but we do.

From a political standpoint, getting everyone with a household income above $28,000 to pay their fair share of taxes would be very difficult to accomplish. It is political suicide to even suggest raising taxes on the poor or middle class. And people have different ideas of fairness. Some think it is unfair that the wealthy pay preferential rates on capital gains and dividends (we lowered those taxes years ago, for good reason). I happen to think it is unfair that 61% of Americans have no income tax liability. Whether you think it's fair or not probably depends where you sit on the political spectrum.

Global leaders are currently having discussions about implementing a minimum tax rate of 15% for corporations. Why not a minimum tax rate for individuals? It doesn't have to be much—even 5% would do. When you have a financial stake in something, you tend to care more about what happens to that thing. A small contribution would cause people to be much more concerned about how money is spent in D.C., which would be a good thing.

The next time you hear someone tell you with great indignation that they're a taxpayer, remember that there's a 61% chance that they are lying.

Texas victory at the Supreme Court makes sure abortion will be America's forever war

By MELINDA HENNEBERGER
The Kansas City Star

It's our spittle-flying national screaming match over abortion, more than any other issue, that has made Tutsis and Hutus out of Americans who used to think, ridiculous as it seems now, that they had a lot in common.

Without decades of well-financed mutual demonization in the war between those who see their adversaries as baby-killers on the one side and woman-haters on the other, we would never have been so primed for this insane cultural divide over a virus that doesn't care who we are or how we vote.

It's no accident, after all, that the mocking motto of pandemic denialists is "my body, my choice."

"It's very hard for us to be in the same room with most of these people" who don't think the way she and her husband do, pro-life and anti-mask Raytown, Missouri, doughnut shop owner Elisa Breitenbach posted during the Independence City Council meeting where a mask mandate was voted down.

So here we are, inhabiting a world where there's no moral difference between abortion and murder, according to some of the same people who love all babies in theory, but won't wear a mask to protect your unvaccinated children, or even their own.

You can't make 2me wear a piece of paper over my nose and mouth just because doing so might keep others from suffering a horrible death, they cry, right before quoting Patrick Henry. Oh, but I can make your 12-year-old bear her rapist's child, because a life is at stake.

Our wider conflict, let's face it, is only going to accelerate with this Texas abortion law that's about to take off like the Caldor Fire in California. Because the most extreme fears of abortion rights supporters were just eclipsed by reality.

A law that encourages Soviet-style cash prizes for neighbors who turn in neighbors they suspect of, say, giving a girl a ride to the Planned Parenthood clinic, does not look like a pro-life win to me. Unless, of course, the point of the war is more war, in which case it's a genius plan.

I wondered what a woman I know here in Kansas City who got pregnant as the result of a rape—nobody tell Todd Akin—would think of this new Texas law.

In the Catholic world in which she grew up, she said, abortion was not even part of the conversation. She not only had the baby, and then gave her up for adoption, but took her child back before the end of the 30 days she had to change her mind. "I love my child. And I didn't want her not to know who she was."

She's still Catholic—deeply so, which is how I got to know her. Yet it would not be an exaggeration to say that she, who not only didn't but wouldn't ever have ended a pregnancy, is grieving over what the Supreme Court has done here, in leaving the Texas law in place.

"I see these laws as the murder of the woman," she said. "It's a savage, rock-bottom, raw need for control."

After serial killer and cannibal Jeffrey Dahmer was arrested, "they asked him, 'Why do you do this?' and he said, 'for that last ahhhh,'"—and here she exhaled. "It was for that control that only is given to God. It's 'I will be like God.'" So, too, she feels, are those who would spare women the difficult choices of autonomy.

After what happened to her as a young woman, she not only woke up in physical agony and covered in blood, but then was "treated by my family as that bad girl out having fun. My pain has never been validated; that's the price the woman pays."

It hurts her almost beyond description to think that that hasn't changed. Which it hasn't. And won't, as long as we can't even hear each other when we talk.

With so much money and political power on the line, just how does this war end? Without the kind of truce reached long ago in Western Europe, where abortions really are early, safe and far more rare, it's hard to imagine. Even if Roe v. Wade falls, the fight won't be over. And after nearly half a century, I'm pretty confident in predicting that no one will ever win.

BIDEN

From Page 8

in July, "I still believe that, in the long term, nuclear energy isn't a sustainable form of energy production." She even dared a successor to reverse her decision: "For Germany, the die is cast."

Whether Merkel's decisions were right or wrong isn't what matters. (If you're keeping score, she was right on bailouts, wrong on nuclear power, right on refugees.) It doesn't even matter if those decisions were popular with voters. (Shuttering nuclear plants was; welcoming refugees wasn't.) What matters is that people knew that, when it mattered, Merkel was capable of making a tough and controversial decision.

This is what set her apart from the Third Way centrists who came before and after her. The Tony Blair-Bill Clinton generation developed a reputation for calibrated policy shifts that had been focus-grouped and opinion-polled to within an inch of their life. Meanwhile, Barack Obama's most famous guide to governance was also a spur to inaction: "Don't do stupid s---."

Merkel's choices, Germans recognized, might have been disagreeable and they might not even have been wise. But they were her own—and at least their chancellor was doing something. French President Emmanuel Macron, fighting off objections to his vaccine mandates, has developed something of this energy toward the end of his term. Perhaps that's why he still has a chance of re-election.

Populist leaders offer their followers the constant high of simple, formulaic policy pronouncements that may never make a difference in the real world. (That wall never got built on the Mexico border, remember?) They make it sound as though they are constantly issuing strong-minded decrees, even when all they're actually doing is playing golf or posing for pictures.

The thoughtful, cautious centrist is going to look colorless by comparison—even when faced with obvious incompetence and buffoonery. If you don't believe me, compare Labour Party leader Keir Starmer's poll numbers to Prime Minister Boris Johnson's in Britain.

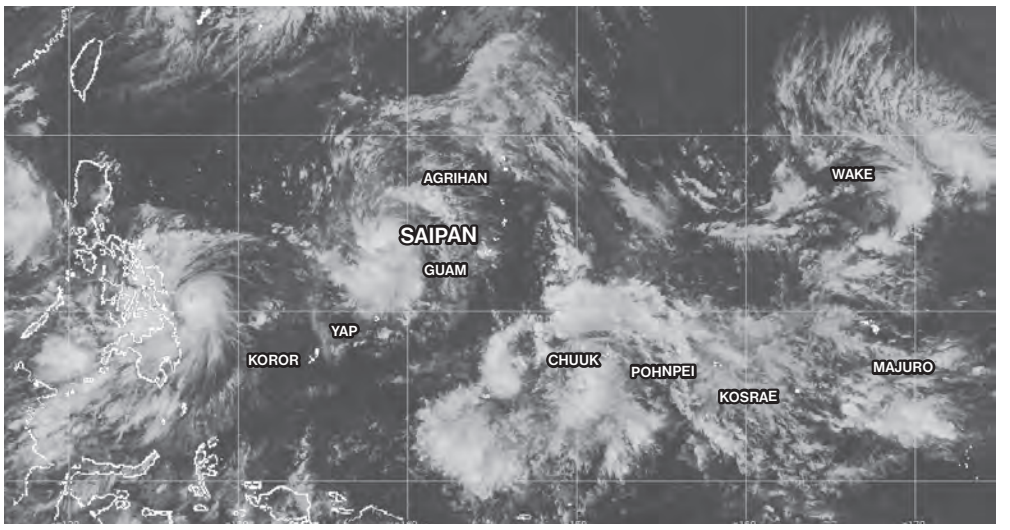
Biden and Merkel are very different people. But Biden will probably survive his Afghanistan disaster for the same reason that Merkel held power so long: At least it's his disaster. Obama's vice-president has discovered his own secret for success: "Do stuff, even if it's stupid."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
86° 76°	84° 76°	84° 76°	84° 76°	84° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:26 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers are moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. Increasing clouds and showers are seen just east of 150E with the next trough. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed of a trade-wind swell from just north of east at 3 to 4 feet and wind waves ranging from northeast to southeast, at 2 to 3 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	80 / 87 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Yap	Morning clouds	78 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	78 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	74 / 89 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	82 / 87 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	83 / 88 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:00 AM	6:47 PM	-
Wednesday	6:56 AM	7:28 PM	-
Thursday	7:51 AM	8:10 PM	-
Friday	8:48 AM	8:52 PM	-
Saturday	9:46 AM	9:38 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	47 / 60 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	64 / 88 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	78 / 88 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	72 / 83 °F
London	Partly cloudy	54 / 78 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	66 / 90 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	80 / 88 °F
Melbourne	Mostly cloudy	54 / 61 °F
Miami	Flash floods	77 / 83 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	71 / 83 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	71 / 82 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	57 / 78 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	69 / 79 °F
Rome	Sunny	61 / 88 °F
Salem	Light showers	57 / 75 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	59 / 71 °F
Seoul	Mostly cloudy	64 / 73 °F
Tokyo	Heavy rain	76 / 83 °F
Washington, DC	Morning clouds	70 / 87 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:47 AM	Low Tide	0.99
7:07 AM	High Tide	2.01
2:01 PM	Low Tide	0.02
8:31 PM	High Tide	2.00

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

How 9/11 changed air travel: more security, less privacy

DALLAS (AP)—Ask anyone old enough to remember travel before Sept. 11, 2001, and you're likely to get a gauzy recollection of what flying was like.

There was security screening, but it wasn't anywhere near as intrusive. There were no long checkpoint lines. Passengers and their families could walk right to the gate together, postponing goodbye hugs until the last possible moment. Overall, an airport experience meant far less stress.

That all ended when four hijacked planes crashed into the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

The worst terror attack on American soil led to increased and sometimes tension-filled security measures in airports across the world, aimed at preventing a repeat of that awful day. The cataclysm has also contributed to other changes large and small that have reshaped the airline industry—and, for consumers, made air travel more stressful than ever.

Travelers wear face coverings in the line for the north security checkpoint in the main terminal of Denver International Airport Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021, in Denver. AP

Two months after the attacks, President George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Transportation Security Administration, a force of federal airport screeners that replaced the private companies that airlines were hiring to handle security. The law required that all checked bags be screened, cockpit doors be reinforced, and more federal air marshals be put on flights.

There has not been another 9/11. Nothing even close. But after that day, flying changed forever.

NEW THREATS, PRIVACY CONCERNS

Here's how it unfolded.

Security measures evolved with new threats, and so travelers were asked to take off belts and remove some items from bags for scanning. Things that clearly could be wielded as weapons, like the box-cutters used by the 9/11 hijackers, were banned. After "shoe bomber" Richard Reid's attempt to take down a flight from Paris to Miami in late 2001, footwear started coming off at security checkpoints.

Each new requirement seemed to make checkpoint lines longer, forcing passengers to arrive at the airport earlier if they wanted to make their flights. To many travelers, other rules were more mystifying, such as limits on liquids because the wrong ones could possibly be used to concoct a bomb.

"It's a much bigger hassle than it was before 9/11—much bigger—but we have gotten used to it," Ronald Briggs said as he and his wife, Jeanne, waited at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport for a flight to London last month. The north Texas retirees, who traveled frequently before the pandemic, said they are more worried about COVID-19 than terrorism.

"The point about taking shoes off because of one incident on a plane seems somewhat on the extreme side," Ronald Briggs said, "but the PreCheck works pretty smoothly, and I've learned to use a plastic belt so I don't have to take it off."

The long lines created by post-attack measures gave rise to the PreCheck and Global Entry "trusted-traveler programs" in which people who pay a fee and provide certain information about themselves pass through checkpoints without removing shoes and jackets or taking laptops out of their bag.

But that convenience has come at a cost: privacy.

On its application and in brief interviews, PreCheck asks people about basic information like work history and where they have lived, and they give a fingerprint and agree to a criminal-records check. Privacy advocates are particularly concerned about ideas that TSA has floated to also examine social media postings (the agency's top official says that has been dropped), press reports about people, location data and information from data brokers including how applicants spend their money.

"It's far from clear that that has any relationship to aviation security," says Jay Stanley, a privacy expert at the American Civil Liberties Union.

More than 10 million people have enrolled in PreCheck. TSA wants to raise that to 25 million.

The goal is to let TSA officers spend more time on passengers considered to be a bigger risk. As the country marks the 20th anniversary of the attacks, the TSA's work to expand PreCheck is unfolding in a way privacy advocates worry could put people's information at more risk.

At the direction of Congress, the TSA will expand the use of private vendors to gather information from PreCheck applicants. It currently uses a company called Idemia, and plans by the end of the year to add two more—Telos Identity Management Solutions and Clear Secure Inc.

After Ida's fury, infrastructure key in preventing misery

By LISA RATHKE and MICHAEL R. SISAK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly flooding delivered to the Northeast by the torrential rains of what remained of Hurricane Ida has brought a new urgency and a fresh look to how roads, sewers, bridges and other infrastructure must be improved to prevent such a catastrophe from happening again.

The world is changing and "our whole mindset, the playbook that we use," must change too, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said Thursday as he toured Mullica Hills, New Jersey, where a 150-mph (241 kph) tornado splintered homes. "We have got to leap forward and get out ahead of this."

The devastation exposed flaws in preparation plans even after New Jersey and New York spent billions of dollars to prevent a reoccurrence of Superstorm Sandy's destruction in 2012, with much spent to protect coastal communities.

"Flash floods are now coming. It's not waves off the ocean or the sound," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said soon after last week's storm swept through.

Hochul and Murphy, both Democrats, agreed that the increasing frequency and intensity of storms demand a new approach that factors in flash floods.

The storm dumped so much rain so fast that a record 3 inches (7.5 centimeters) fell in an hour in New York Wednesday, overwhelming drainage systems. Some lives were lost when water flooded basement apartments, subway stations and vehicles. At least 50 people died in five northeastern states.

"I don't think many people could have predicted the severity of the loss of life and damage done by the flash rains," said Dr. Irwin Redlener, founding director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University. "People drowning in their basement apartments, in cars and so on is not something we typically would ever see in New York."

Hochul promised new answers to pressing questions, like whether warnings were clear enough and communications with the weather service were flawed as well as if subways needed a faster shutdown.

The effects of climate change are "happening right now," Hochul said. "It is not a future threat."

Warnings of worsening storm damage are not new.

In August 2011, the aftermath of Hurricane Irene killed six in Vermont, left thousands homeless, and damaged or destroyed over 200 bridges and 500 miles of highway. Of the state's 251 towns, 225 had infrastructure damage. Thirteen communities were severed from the outside world after flooding washed out roads, electricity and telephone communication. National Guard helicopters ferried supplies to stranded residents for days.

More than half a billion dollars was spent by the state and federal governments, and in donations by private individuals, to help Vermont recover.

To weaken effects of future storms, New York and other areas can learn from other cities like Singapore, Copenhagen and Amsterdam, where solutions included turning asphalt parking lots and schoolyards into spaces that can retain water, said Amy Chester, managing director for the nonprofit Rebuild by Design.

"Climate change is expensive. We're going to have to spend money on it and every single dollar we spend in any type of infrastructure needs to take into consideration the future," she said.

Redlener, the disaster preparedness expert, said New York City and other communities need to rethink warning systems and consider reengineering drainage, electrical and storm warning systems.

He noted that the city's aging subway system has long been relied upon to absorb excess water from heavy rains, but that was before record rainfalls set off unprecedented flooding.

"That can't work because there's people in the subways and we have to think about their safety also," he said.

And he said the future of New York City's basement apartments, which could number in the thousands, must be reconsidered.

"What are we going to do for them now and what are we gonna do for people in the future? Are we going to even permit people legally to live in basement apartments, and if not, do we have the capacity and the resources to have other alternatives? I don't know that we do," he said.

The system for warning people in areas threatened must be rethought and plans should be in place for what people should do and where they should go, he said.

Linda Shi, an assistant professor in the department of city and regional planning at Cornell University, said there are limits to what infrastructure improvements such as larger storm pipes and road elevation can bring.

She said most planners agree the strategies only buy time.

If the worsening storm trends continue, she said, ultimately there will be increased conversations about "managed retreat."

Nation

Florida gunman killed 4, including mom still holding baby

By KELLI KENNEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man wearing full body armor fatally shot four people, including a mother and the 3-month-old baby she was cradling, and engaged in a massive gunfight with police and deputies before he was wounded and surrendered, a Florida sheriff said Sunday. An 11-year-old girl who was shot seven times survived.

Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said during a press conference that even after 33-year-old Bryan Riley was arrested Sunday morning, he was so aggressive that he tried to wrestle a gun from police as he lay on his hospital gurney.

Judd said Riley, a former Marine who served as a sharpshooter in both Iraq and Afghanistan, seemed to have targeted his victims at random and appeared to be suffering from mental health issues. Judd said Riley's girlfriend told authorities Riley had been slowly unraveling for weeks and repeatedly told her that he could communicate directly with God.

"They begged for their lives and I killed them anyway," Judd said Riley told them during an interrogation.

Investigators said preliminary evidence shows 40-year-old Justice Gleason just happened to be an unlucky stranger out mowing his lawn Saturday night when Riley drove by his home in Lakeland, about 30 miles (48.28 kilometers) east of Tampa, saying God told him to stop because Gleason's daughter was going to commit suicide.

A second, unidentified person also confronted Riley, telling him that story wasn't true and warned they'd call police if he didn't leave, Judd said. He referred to the person as a victim but declined to clarify which one.

Authorities responded to the scene but never found Riley.

About nine hours later, around 4:30 a.m., Riley returned to the home, laying out glowsticks to create a path leading to the house to draw officers "into an ambush," Judd said.

Polk County, Fla., Sheriff's officials work the scene of a multiple fatality shooting Sunday, Sept. 5, 2021, in Lakeland, Fla. AP

Hospitals in crisis in least vaccinated state: Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—As patients stream into Mississippi hospitals one after another, doctors and nurses have become all too accustomed to the rampant denial and misinformation about COVID-19 in the nation's least vaccinated state.

People in denial about the severity of their own illness or the virus itself, with visitors frequently trying to enter hospitals without masks. The painful look of recognition on patients' faces when they realize they made a mistake not getting vaccinated. The constant misinformation about the coronavirus that they discuss with medical staff.

"There's no point in being judgmental in that situation. There's no point in telling them, 'You should have gotten the vaccine or you wouldn't be here,'" said Dr. Risa Moriarity, executive vice chair of the University of Mississippi Medical Center's emergency department. "We don't do that. We try not to preach and lecture them. Some of them are so sick they can barely even speak to us."

Mississippi's low vaccinated rate, with about 38% of the state's 3 million people fully inoculated against COVID-19, is driving a surge in cases and hospitalizations that is overwhelming medical workers. The workers are angry and exhausted over both the workload and refusal by residents to embrace the vaccine.

Physicians at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the only level one trauma center in all of Mississippi, are caring for the sickest patients in the state.

The emergency room and intensive care unit are beyond capacity, almost all with COVID patients. Moriarity said it's like a "logjam" with beds in hallways, patients being treated in triage rooms. Paramedics are delayed in responding to new calls because they have to wait with patients who need care.

Louisiana residents thankful for small miracles after Ida

MARRERO, La. (AP)—Amid the devastation caused by Hurricane Ida, there was at least one bright light Sunday: Parishioners found that electricity had been restored to their church outside of New Orleans, a small improvement as residents of Louisiana struggle to regain some aspects of normal life.

In Jefferson Parish, the Rev. G. Amaldoss expected to celebrate Mass at St. Joachim Catholic Church in the parking lot, which was dotted with downed limbs. But when he swung open the doors of the church early Sunday, the sanctuary was bathed in light. That made an indoor service possible.

"Divine intervention," Amaldoss said, pressing his hands together and looking toward the sky.

A week after Hurricane Ida struck, many in Louisiana continue to face food, water and gas shortages as well as power outages while battling heat and humidity. The storm was blamed for at least 17 deaths in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

On Sunday, state health officials announced that the death toll in Louisiana has climbed to 13, including a 74-year-old man who died of heat during an extensive power outage. In the Northeast, Ida's remnants dumped record-breaking rain and killed at least 50 people from Virginia to Connecticut.

As Mass began Sunday, Amaldoss walked down the aisle of the church in his green robe, with just eight people spread among the pews. Instead, the seats brimmed with boxes of donated toothpaste, shampoo and canned vegetables.

ACROSS THE NATION

South Lake Tahoe residents can return as fire threat eases

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (AP)—Tens of thousands of people forced to flee South Lake Tahoe could begin returning to their homes after evacuation orders were downgraded to warnings Sunday afternoon as crews made progress against a massive wildfire. The orders that sent 22,000 people in and around the resort fleeing last week were reduced to warnings as the fire virtually stalled a few scant few miles from the forest areas straddling the California-Nevada border. California Highway Patrol officers began taking down roadblocks on State Route 50 at Stateline, Nevada, KCRA-TV reported. Members of the National Guard who had helped on the fire had left the area. The threat from the Caldor Fire hasn't entirely vanished but downgrading to a warning meant those who wish could return to their homes in what had been a smoke-choked ghost town instead of a thriving Labor Day getaway location.

Top Republican says Taliban holding Americans

WASHINGTON—The top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee says some Americans who have been trying to get out of Afghanistan since the U.S. military left are sitting in airplanes at an airport ready to leave but the Taliban are not letting them take off. Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas says there are six airplanes at the Mazar-e-Sharif airport with American citizens on board, along with their Afghan interpreters, and the Taliban are "holding them hostage" right now. A worker at the Mazar-e-Sharif airport confirmed several aircraft he believes were chartered by the U.S. are parked at the airport. Taliban have prevented them from leaving, saying they wanted to check the documents of those on board, many of whom do not have passports or visas. The airport official did not want to be identified because of the sensitivity of the subject. McCaul, speaking on "Fox News Sunday," says the Taliban have made demands. He gave no specifics but said he's worried "They're going to demand more and more, whether it be cash or legitimacy as the government of Afghanistan." He said the aircraft have been at the airport for "the last couple days."

US Navy IDs 5 killed in helicopter crash off California

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The U.S. Navy on Sunday identified five sailors who died when a helicopter crashed in the Pacific Ocean off of Southern California. They were Lt. Bradley A. Foster, 29, a pilot from Oakhurst, California; Lt. Paul R. Fridley, 28, a pilot from Annandale, Virginia; Naval Air Crewman (Helicopter) 2nd Class James P. Buriak, 31, from Salem, Virginia; Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sarah F. Burns, 31, from Severna Park, Maryland and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Bailey J. Tucker, 21, from St. Louis, Missouri. The MH-60S crashed on Aug. 31 about 70 miles (112 kilometers) off San Diego during what the Navy described as routine flight operations. It was operating from the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. One sailor was rescued after the crash. Five sailors aboard the aircraft carrier were injured but were said to be in stable condition. The Navy declared the sailors dead on Saturday following days of search-and-rescue efforts and switched to recovering their bodies. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Police: Four shot dead in Houston house that was set ablaze

HOUSTON (AP)—Firefighters found two adults and two children dead of apparent gunshot wounds after extinguishing a blaze at a home in Houston on Sunday. There weren't any signs of forced entry at the house in the southwest of the city and the fire, which was reported shortly after 8 a.m., may have been an attempt to destroy evidence or disguise something at the scene, Police Chief Troy Finner said during a news conference. The dead were adults in their 50s and children who were apparently in the 10 to 13 age range, Finner said. He didn't identify the dead, saying police hadn't yet notified their family. He said investigators believe the shootings were an act of domestic violence, but he didn't say why they think that. "It's real sad," he said. "When it's innocent kids, it's even more upsetting."

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Taliban say they took Panjshir, last holdout Afghan province

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban said on Monday they have taken control of Panjshir province north of Kabul, the last holdout of anti-Taliban forces in the country and the only province the Taliban had not seized during their blitz across Afghanistan last month. Thousands of Taliban fighters overran eight districts of Panjshir overnight, according to witnesses from the area who spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing for their safety. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid issued a statement Monday, saying Panjshir was now under the control of Taliban fighters. The anti-Taliban forces had been led by the former vice president, Amrullah Saleh, and also the son of the iconic anti-Taliban fighter Ahmad Shah Massoud who was killed just days before the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Taliban stop planes of evacuees from leaving but unclear why

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—At least four planes chartered to evacuate several hundred people seeking to escape the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan have been unable to leave the country for days, officials said Sunday, with conflicting accounts emerging about why the flights weren't able to take off as pressure ramps up on the United States to help those left behind to flee. An Afghan official at the airport in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif said that the would-be passengers were Afghans, many of whom did not have passports or visas, and thus were unable to leave the country. He said they had left the airport while the situation was sorted out. The top Republican on the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, however, said that the group included Americans and they were sitting on the planes, but the Taliban were not letting them take off, effectively "holding them hostage." He did not say where that information came from. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the accounts.

Israeli police launch manhunt after 6 prisoners break out

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Israeli police on Monday said they were searching for six Palestinian prisoners who escaped overnight from a high-security facility in northern Israel in an extremely rare breakout. Police said they have erected roadblocks and are conducting patrols in the area. The men were believed to have been headed for Jenin, where the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority wields little control and where militants in recent weeks have openly clashed with Israeli forces. The prisoners escaped from the Gilboa prison overnight, which is supposed to be one of Israel's most secure facilities. Israel's Army Radio said the men escaped through a tunnel and appeared to have received some outside help. Photos appearing in Israeli media show what was purported to be the end of the escape tunnel, with one image showing an Israeli security man in a black T-shirts inspecting a hole in the ground.

Suicide bombing at southwest Pakistan checkpoint kills 3

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber detonated his explosives Sunday near a security checkpoint in restive southwestern Pakistan, killing at least three paramilitary troops and wounding 15 others, police said. Senior police officer Azhar Akram said the attacker had walked toward the checkpoint manned by the paramilitary Frontier Corps on Quetta-Mastung Road, some 25 kilometers (15 miles) south of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province. He said body parts were found at a distance from the security post after the bombing. Akram said some of the wounded were in critical condition and the death toll could rise. Banned militant group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, also known as the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the morning attack. It was the first time TTP claimed an attack on Pakistani security forces since the Taliban—a separate organization—took control of neighboring Afghanistan.

US supports 2 Canadians marking 1,000th day in Chinese cells

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Sunday that "people are not bargaining chips," adding the U.S. stands with Canada in calling for the release of two Canadians detained in China for 1,000 days. Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor were detained in China in what many countries label "hostage politics" after Canada arrested an executive of Chinese tech giant Huawei in 2018 on a U.S. extradition request. Kovrig, a Canadian diplomat on leave to an international organization, and Spavor, an entrepreneur, were arrested in apparent retaliation. Both have since been convicted of spying in closed Chinese courts—a process that Canada and dozens of allies say amounts to arbitrary detention.

Soldiers detain Guinea's president, dissolve government

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—Mutinous soldiers in the West African nation of Guinea detained President Alpha Conde on Sunday after hours of heavy gunfire rang out near the presidential palace in the capital, then announced on state television that the government had been dissolved in an apparent coup d'etat.

The country's borders were closed and its constitution was declared invalid in the announcement read aloud on state television by army Col. Mamadi Doumbouya, who told Guineans: "The duty of a soldier is to save the country."

"We will no longer entrust politics to one man. We will entrust it to the people," said Doumbouya, draped in a Guinean flag with about a half dozen other soldiers flanked at his side.

It was not immediately known, though, how much support Doumbouya had within the military or whether other soldiers loyal to the president of more than a decade might attempt to wrest back control.

The junta later announced plans to replace Guinea's governors with regional commanders at an event Monday and warned: "Any refusal to appear will be considered rebellion" against the country's new military leaders.

The West African regional bloc known as ECOWAS quickly condemned the developments, threatening sanctions if Conde was not immediately released. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres tweeted that he strongly condemned "any takeover of the government by force of the gun."

The U.S. State Department warned against violence and urged authorities in Guinea to avoid "extra-constitutional" actions that "will only erode Guinea's prospects for peace, stability, and prosperity." Spokesman Ned Price added in a statement that the junta's "actions could limit the ability of the United States and Guinea's other international partners to support the country."

A Celebration of Life

†Francisco Xavier Deleon Guerrero Tudela

Also known as "FRANK"

Born to Life: December 05, 1930 – Called to Eternal Life: August 31, 2021

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: †Enrique & Maria Tudela
Wife: †Relina D. Tudela
Brother & Sisters: †Fridolin DLG. & Esperanza Songao
†Vicenta S. & Gabriel Quitugua
†Victorino & Maria Deleon Guerrero
†Pablo DLG. Tudela
†Francesca DLG. Tudela

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Children: †Henry D. & Carmen S. Tudela
Helen T. & Steven Eavansan
Ricky D. & Clarissa Q. Tudela
Francine & Murphy H. Paul
Joseph D. Tudela

Step Children: Emlok (Alan) & †Erwin Zachrias
Stephen & Barbara Lepton
Betty M. & Rickson Hadley

Sister & In–law: Trinidad & †Antonio Santos

He will also be missed by his numerous relatives and friends.

Daily mass of Intentions are being celebrated each evening at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 6:00p.m. and at 10:30a.m. on Sunday.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, September 09, 2021. Our beloved **†Frank** will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Santa Soledad Church at 7:30 am. Responso service will be at 8:00 am followed by Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by interment service at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Garden in Kagman, where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Kalangan, Olomwaay

The Family

Overdrive

Until 2023? Parts shortage will keep auto prices sky-high

By TOM KRISHER
AP AUTO WRITER

In this Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021, file photo, a pair of unsold 2021 Highlander sports utility vehicles and a Camry sedan are parked on the empty storage lot outside a Toyota dealership in Englewood, Colo. AP

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—Back in the spring, a shortage of computer chips that had sent auto prices soaring appeared, finally, to be easing. Some relief for consumers seemed to be in sight.

That hope has now dimmed. A surge in COVID-19 cases from the delta variant in several Asian countries that are the main producers of auto-grade chips is worsening the supply shortage. It is further delaying a return to normal auto production and keeping the supply of vehicles artificially low.

And that means, analysts say, that record-high consumer prices for vehicles—new and used, as well as rental cars—will extend into next year and might not fall back toward earth until 2023.

The global parts shortage involves not just computer chips. Automakers are starting to see shortages of wiring harnesses, plastics and glass, too. And beyond autos, vital components for goods ranging from farm equipment and industrial machinery to sportswear and kitchen accessories are also bottled up at ports around the world as demand outpaces supply in the face of a resurgent virus.

"It appears it's going to get a little tougher before it gets easier," said Glenn Mears, who runs four auto dealerships around Canton, Ohio.

Squeezed by the parts shortfall, General Motors and Ford have announced one- or two-week closures at multiple North American factories, some of which produce their hugely popular full-size pickup trucks.

Late last month, shortages of semiconductors and other parts grew so acute that Toyota felt compelled to announce it would slash production by at least 40% in Japan and North America for two months. The cuts meant a reduction of 360,000 vehicles worldwide in September. Toyota, which largely avoided sporadic factory closures that have plagued rivals this year, now foresees production losses into October.

Nissan, which had announced in mid-August that chip shortages would force it to close its immense factory in Smyrna, Tennessee, until Aug. 30, now says the closure will last until Sept. 13.

And Honda dealers are bracing for fewer shipments.

"This is a fluid situation that is impacting the entire industry's global supply chain, and we are adjusting production as necessary," said Chris Abbruzzese, a Honda spokesman.

The result is that vehicle buyers are facing persistent and once-unthinkable price spikes. The average price of a new vehicle sold in the U.S. in August hit a record of just above $41,000—nearly $8,200 more than it was just two years ago, J.D. Power estimated.

With consumer demand still high, automakers feel little pressure to discount their vehicles. Forced to conserve their scarce computer chips, the automakers have routed them to higher-priced models—pickup trucks and large SUVs, for example—thereby driving up their average prices.

The roots of the computer chip shortage bedeviling auto and other industries stem from the eruption of the pandemic early last year. U.S. automakers had to shut factories for eight weeks to help stop the virus from spreading. Some parts companies canceled orders for semiconductors. At the same time, with tens of millions of people hunkered down at home, demand for laptops, tablets and gaming consoles skyrocketed.

As auto production resumed, consumer demand for cars remained strong. But chip makers had shifted production to consumer goods, creating a shortage of weather-resistant automotive-grade chips.

Then, just as auto chip production started to rebound in late spring, the highly contagious delta variant struck Malaysia and other Asian countries where chips are finished and other auto parts are made.

In August, new vehicle sales in the U.S. tumbled nearly 18%, mainly because of supply shortages. Automakers reported that U.S. dealers had fewer than 1 million new vehicles on their lots in August—72% lower than in August 2019.

Even if auto production were somehow to immediately regain its highest-ever level for vehicles sold in the U.S., it would take more than a year to achieve a more normal 60-day supply of vehicles and for prices to head down, the consulting firm Alix Partners has calculated.

"Under that scenario," said Dan Hearsch, an Alix Partners managing director, "it's not until early 2023 before they even could overcome a backlog of sales, expected demand and build up the inventory."

For now, with parts supplies remaining scarce and production cuts spreading, many dealers are nearly out of new vehicles.

On a recent visit to the "Central Avenue Strip" in suburban Toledo, Ohio, a road chock-full of dealerships, few new vehicles could be found on the lots. Some dealers filled in their lots with used vehicles.

The supply is so low and prices so high that one would-be buyer, Heather Pipelow of Adrian, Michigan, said she didn't even bother to look for a new SUV at Jim White Honda.

Feds probe NY Tesla crash that killed man changing flat tire

DETROIT (AP)—The U.S. government's road safety agency has added another fatality involving a Tesla to the list of crashes it is probing due to the use of partially automated driving systems.

A special crash investigation team was dispatched to a July 26 crash on the Long Island Expressway in New York in which a man was killed by a Tesla Model Y SUV, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said on Friday.

The death brings to 10 the number of fatal crashes to which the agency has sent a team, nine of which involved Teslas. A total of 12 people were killed. The only fatal crash in which a Tesla wasn't involved was in March of 2018, when an autonomous Uber test vehicle ran down a pedestrian in Tempe, Arizona.

The New York crash is on an updated list of those under investigation by NHTSA that was released on Friday.

The New York Police Department said that early on July 26, a 52-year-old man was hit by a Tesla and killed while changing a flat tire on his vehicle, which was parked on the left shoulder of the Long Island Expressway in Queens. The Tesla driver remained at the scene, and the department identified the victim as Jean Louis of Cambria Heights, New York. On Friday, police said they're conferring with NHTSA in the continuing investigation, and no arrest has been made.

The additional fatality was revealed about three weeks after NHTSA opened a formal investigation into Tesla's partially automated driving systems and how they have crashed into parked emergency vehicles. The probe comes as the agency has become more aggressive in looking at automated driving systems since President Joe Biden took office. For years NHTSA has been reluctant to regulate the systems, which have tremendous potential to save lives.

A message was left Friday seeking comment from Tesla, which is based in Palo Alto, California. In the past the company has said Autopilot is a driver-assist system and that drivers must be ready to intervene at all times. Tesla has been criticized by the National Transportation Safety Board and others who say it needs a stronger system to watch drivers to make sure they are paying attention.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com

What's that buzzing sound?

Q: My Honda CR-V makes a loud buzzing noise that is only heard by the receiver of the phone call when it's connected to the Bluetooth. This sound is not heard by the driver of the car. Any idea on what is causing this? I asked my Honda service person and he said disconnect the phone and reconnect it again and it should stop. It did for a very short time but quickly came back again. It's a concern to me that I can't make calls when I need to.

A: There is an issue with the vehicle's microphone and Honda is aware of this. It was a common problem with the CR-V and Civic equipped with the Hand Free Link (Bluetooth) system. The fix is to replace the microphone inside the map light assembly on the ceiling. There is a technical service bulletin (TSB) that your dealer should look up.

Q: I was surprised by your answer to A.S. in Austin, recommending engaging the parking brake every time before placing the shifter in park. Living in the flatlands of Chicago, we had always been told to only use the parking brake when parking on a steep incline. Checking the internet, that turns out not to be true. Why is use of the parking brake not promoted properly by car dealers, the AAA and others?

A: Although more and more cars are equipped with electric parking brakes, others still have a cable system. Regular use keeps the cables free of corrosion. If you have never used the parking brakes and apply them, the cables may freeze preventing the brakes from being released. You better have towing insurance.

Q: I recently purchased a 2014 Mercedes-Benz SL550. The manual says to use premium gas. Here in Texas, premium gas is at least 80 cents higher than regular. I have read that regular gas can be used in vehicles that supposedly require premium resulting in only a slight reduction in performance. Can you provide any insight or recommendations for this issue?

A: All Mercedes-Benz cars require premium (91 octane or higher) fuel. They have high compression engines. Using a lower octane fuel in high compression engines may cause pre-ignition (ping). Using a lower octane fuel may also cause the check engine light to come on.

Q: As pickups get bigger and wider, I see their side mirrors have become the size of wheel covers and stick out two feet from the A pillar. You could mow down 10 pedestrians at a corner waiting to cross the street. Is there a regulation that applies to these mirrors?

A: I know of no regulation. Yes, pickup truck mirrors have grown. Many trucks now arrive from the factory with a towing package that includes larger mirrors. If you have ever towed a trailer, you know that big mirrors help. For owners living on narrow streets, those humongous mirrors are often folded in to avoid getting clipped off. Sure, some people install massive mirrors, but that might just be a reflection of their personalities.

Q: I frequently read that drivers should turn off their engines when filling the gas tank. Why?

A: For the same reason that we are warned not to smoke, to dissipate static electricity by touching the vehicle before fueling, to stay with the vehicle while fueling and so on: To avoid the danger of fire. By the way, if a fire starts, to not remove the nozzle!

Life & Style

‘Shang-Chi’ blasts Labor Day records with $71.4M debut

NEW YORK (AP)—On what’s traditionally one of the sleepiest weekends at the movies, the Marvel film “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” smashed the record for Labor Day openings with an estimated $71.4 million in ticket sales, giving a box office reeling from the recent coronavirus surge a huge lift heading into the fall season.

The Friday-to-Sunday gross for “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings,” Marvel’s first film led by an Asian superhero, ranks as one of the best debuts of the pandemic, trailing only the previous Marvel film, “Black Widow” ($80.3 million in July). Overseas, it pulled in $56.2 million for a global three-day haul of $127.6 million. Disney anticipates “Shang Chi,” made for about $150 million, will add $12.1 million domestically on Monday.

The Walt Disney Co. opted to release “Shang-Chi” only in theaters where it will have an exclusive 45-day run. Some of the studio’s releases this year, including “Black Widow,” have premiered day-and-date in theaters and on Disney+ for $30.

The strong opening of “Shang-Chi”—forecasts had been closer to $50 million—was a major relief for Hollywood, which had seen jittery releases the last few weeks during rising COVID-19 cases driven by the delta variant. Several upcoming films have recently postponed out of the fall, including Paramount Pictures’ “Top Gun: Maverick,” “Jackass Forever” and “Clifford the Big Red Dog.” Disney’s weekend, though, should lend confidence to upcoming big-budget releases such as the James Bond film “No Time to Die” from MGM and United Artists Releasing, and Sony Pictures’ “Venom: Let There Be Carnage.”

“‘Shang-Chi’ is the ultimate confidence-builder for the theatrical movie industry,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore. “This was a very important film. This was the first Marvel movie that’s opened exclusively theatrically since ‘Spider-Man: Far From Home’ in July 2019. ‘Shang-Chi’ is a real testament of the power of a theatrical-first strategy to drive huge numbers of moviegoers to the multiplex.”

This image released by Marvel Studios shows Meng’er Zhang, Simu Liu and Awkwafina in a scene from “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings.” MARVEL STUDIOS VIA AP

Perhaps nobody was celebrating Sunday more than theater owners. Exhibitors have argued day-and-date releases significantly cannibalize ticket sales. Warner Bros., which is putting all of its 2021 releases simultaneously on HBO Max, has vowed to end the practice next year.

Adding to that argument is the continuing strong performance of “Free Guy,” from Disney’s 20th Century Studios. “Free Guy,” contractually obligated to be released only in theaters, has grossed $239.2 million globally. Without an in-home option, the Ryan Reynolds film has held especially strongly; it added $8.7 million in North America over the weekend, good for third place. In China, “Free Guy” has made $57 million in less than two weeks. (“Shang-Chi” doesn’t yet have a China release date.)

Last week’s top film, the Universal horror remake “Candyman,” slid to second place with $10.5 million. After the holiday weekend, Universal pegs its two-week total at $41.9 million.

Still, you could also read a case for streaming in Disney’s figures Sunday. “Shang-Chi,” the studio noted, premiered roughly similarly to “Black Widow,” which debuted with about $160 million globally, but took in an additional $60 million on Disney+ Premier Access. “Black Widow,” a much more well-known property, launched before the delta variant was widespread in North America. Its release prompted a lawsuit from star Scarlett Johansson, who argued the day-and-date approach breached her contract and deprived her of potential earnings. Disney has said the release complied with Johansson’s contract and called the suit without merit.

Disney has so far declined to telegraph its future theatrical intentions, including for its next Marvel movie, “Eternals” (due out Nov. 5). Bob Chapek, Disney’s chief executive, earlier called the theatrical release of “Shang-Chi” “an interesting experiment”—a label that Canadian actor Simu Liu, who plays Shang-Chi took exception with. “We are not an experiment,” Liu wrote on Twitter. “We are the underdog; the underestimated. We are the ceiling-breakers. We are the celebration of culture and joy that will persevere after an embattled year.”

At the recent exhibitor convention CinemaCon, where some studios pledged faith in the big screen, Disney didn’t make a presentation and instead simply screened “Shang-Chi.” Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, the film is based on a relatively little-known comic and features a largely Asian or Asian American cast, including Tony Leung, Awkwafina and Michelle Yeoh. Audiences and critics have heartily endorsed it. It has a 92% fresh score on Rotten Tomatoes and an “A” CinemaScore from moviegoers.

‘Dune’ is a dream for Villeneuve, Chalamet, sequel or no

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Denis Villeneuve’s adaption of Frank Herbert’s “Dune” was always envisioned as two films. But even if the sequel is anything but a certainty, it’s already been a “dream” for the Canadian director and his star Timothée Chalamet.

“Simply put, this was the honor of a lifetime for me,” Chalamet said Friday at the Venice Film Festival. “I hope we get to do a second one. It would be a dream...(but) it’s already been a dream come true.”

Chalamet, Villeneuve, Zendaya, Oscar Isaac, Rebecca Ferguson, Josh Brolin and Javier Bardem all gathered to discuss the film at a news conference before its world premiere Friday night on the Lido. It is not debuting as part of the competition slate, but it is one of the most anticipated films of the year after a lengthy delay in release because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Based on Herbert’s 1965 science fiction classic, “Dune” is a heroic tale of a rising duke, intergalactic power struggles, a precious spice and lethal spaceworms and it has both inspired and bested some of the best filmmakers. Chalamet plays the young hero, Paul Atreides, who is being groomed to lead when his family learns that they are to rule and protect the hostile desert planet Arrakis, home to the universe’s most valuable resource.

Though it’s a tale that has inspired many creative minds, it’s also one that’s bested them. Alejandro Jodorowsky tried to adapt it in the 1970s, but after years of development and a script that would have resulted in a 14-hour movie, the money came up short and the rights ultimately lapsed. The almost-film even became the subject of a 2013 documentary, “Jodorowsky’s Dune.” Ridley Scott spent seven months in development on another version before dropping out and making “Blade Runner” instead. Then David Lynch stepped in. His film, starring Kyle MacLachlan and released in 1984, bombed at the box office, and did not impress critics.

But Villeneuve, the director behind ambitious and cerebral space epics like “Arrival” and “Blade Runner 2049,” was not deterred by the wreckage that had come before. Villeneuve had his own vision that he’d been dreaming up since he first discovered the book as a teenager. And with the support of Legendary and Warner Bros., a reported $165 million at his disposal, the promise of a sequel and an extra year to perfect it as a result of COVID delays, Villeneuve made his “Dune.” And now he’s ready to put the rest of the world under it’s spell too.

The biggest challenge, he joked, was to “deal and master” with Chalamet’s hair “because it’s alive.” In reality, the trickiest part was finding a balance between making a film for die-hard “Dune” fans, which he and composer Hans Zimmer are, and those who know nothing about it.

The story, which deals with religion, politics, myth, destiny, heritage, environmental decay and colonialism, Villeneuve said, has only become more relevant.

Shoplifting sister shows no remorse for actions

DEAR ABBY: I’m a 28-year-old mother of two. My teenaged adopted sister steals makeup from stores. It sometimes happens when we are together, but I never catch her doing it. She has told me she feels no remorse about stealing the items.

My parents and I have lectured her time after time. She’s now claiming her friends give her makeup they don’t like. I’m exasperated because she just doesn’t seem to get it. Would it be wrong of me to tip off the security guard on our next shopping trip? I want her to learn a lesson before it’s too late. Yet, it could result in juvenile detention and a financial burden on my parents.

I love my sister, but I’m worried her habit may lead to an unfortunate adulthood. She has had counseling in the past for numerous issues, but she either lies to her therapist or just sits quietly and says nothing. Please help me, Abby.

STICKY FINGERS

DEAR STICKY FINGERS: If you do what you are contemplating and your sister finds out you were the person who turned her in, she will never forgive you for it. I agree that the girl has serious problems. That’s why I’m advising you to tell your parents what has been going on and let them handle it. While my inclination would be to give her a dose of tough love, it would be better if it comes from your parents, because they are responsible for her.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We didn’t ask them to, but my parents recently retired and moved from Virginia to Georgia to be close to our family after our son—their first grandchild—was born. The move down here was a huge undertaking for them. It included selling their home in Virginia and building a new one here in Georgia with the assumption that in their old age they would never have to move again.

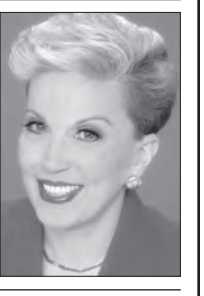
The problem is, my husband and I are considering a move to a different state to pursue career opportunities for the betterment of our family. I feel awful because it will mean my parents may have to move again. We currently live in a location where they don’t know many people, so I don’t think they will want to stay after we leave. How should we bring up the topic of our potential move and discuss it with them?

MOVING IN THE SOUTH

DEAR MOVING: If the opportunities are better elsewhere, then that’s where you should go. This should not have been a deep, dark secret. Tell your parents you are considering another move so they can make plans of their own. They may want to move to a location near you, back to Virginia where their friends are or to a retirement community, where they can form new friendships and won’t be entirely dependent upon you and your husband for social contact, as they apparently were when they moved to Georgia.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

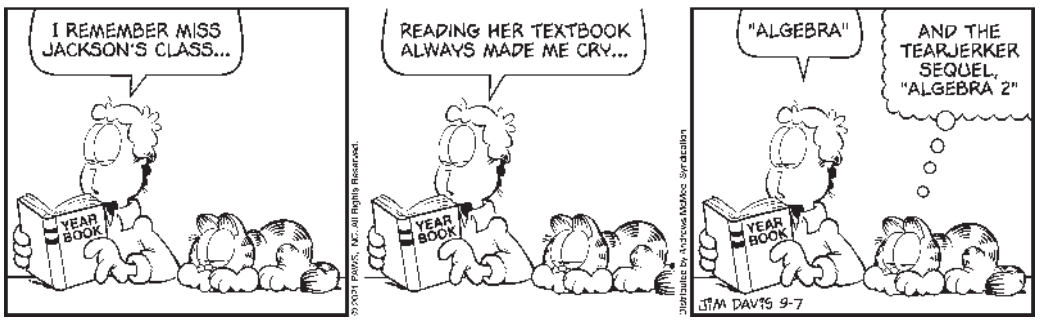
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

OK, LET'S FLUSH IT!
FLUSH
HA HA HA HA
WHIZZZZ
HEE HEE! THAT WAS GREAT! LET'S DO IT AGAIN!
FLUSH
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING. DO YOU?
NO. LET'S GO CHECK.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I REMEMBER MISS JACKSON'S CLASS...
READING HER TEXTBOOK ALWAYS MADE ME CRY...
"ALGEBRA"
AND THE TEARJERKER SEQUEL, "ALGEBRA 2"
YEAR BOOK
JIM DAVIS 9-7

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

UH OH.
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? AN IDEA OR ANOTHER BURP?
NO, NO. THIS IS AN IDEA FOR SURE... BUBBLING UP FROM DOWN DEEP.
SO EXCITING!
YOU MIGHT STAND BACK. THIS ONE'S GONNA BE BIG.
9-7

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HELMETS HAVE BEEN WORN BY BRAVE WARRIORS AS FAR BACK AS 2000 B.C.
THE VIKINGS WERE AMONG THE MOST INFAMOUS TO WEAR THIS FIGHTING HEADGEAR.
CAN I CHANGE MY NAME TO BJORN?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Done with
5 Tax prep pro
8 Rapper Kid —
12 Soccer legend
13 "Exodus" hero
14 "Wild Blue Yonder" mil. group
15 Historic periods
16 Army officers
18 RCA innovation
20 CBer's device
21 Marseilles monarch
22 Standard
23 Largest Greek isle
26 Least friendly
30 Billy — Williams
31 Upper limit
32 "Not impressed ..."
33 Coal miner
36 Monastery
38 Green prefix
39 Egg — yung
40 Pedro's pal
43 Stephen of Comedy Central
47 Straining vessel
49 Manitoba tribe
50 Body powder
51 Last (Abbr.)
52 "Walk Like —"
53 Online crafts site
54 CIA forerunner
55 Old salts

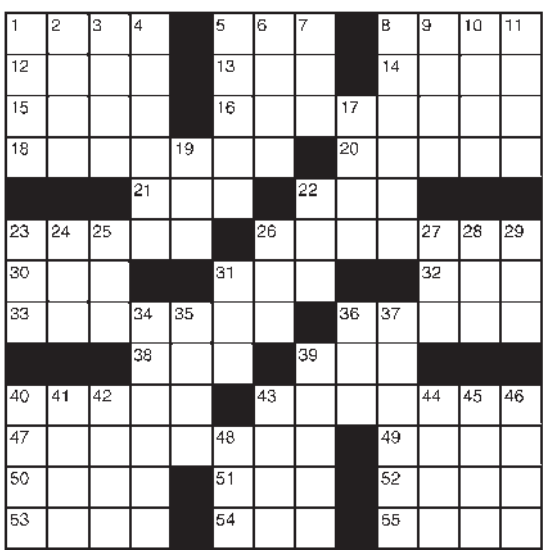
DOWN

1 Oil cartel
2 — Beach, Fla.
3 Airline to Tel Aviv
4 Vacation venue
5 Desert flora
6 Quebec or Ontario (Abbr.)
7 Be sick
8 Famed cruise line
9 Second-hand
10 Painter Salvador
11 In that case
17 Like some vaccines
19 Sturgeon product
22 Soda
23 Govt. health org.
24 Old Olds
25 Sushi choice
26 Train unit
27 Diplomat's res.
28 Observe
29 Your
31 Corp. boss
34 Bequest
35 PC picture
36 ISP giant
37 Lynx
39 Garrisons
40 Part of a French play
41 Castle defense
42 Misfortunes
43 Cartoon frames
44 Singer Franklin
45 Caboose
46 Till bills
48 Pair

Solution time: 22 mins.

O	L	A	Γ	■	W	A	C	■	A	B	L	E
N	A	C	L	■	O	O	H	■	N	O	O	K
E	R	T	F	■	B	L	U	F	N	O	S	E
A	D	V	E	R	B	■	B	A	L	K	E	D
■	■	■	C	C	L	A	■	R	E	H	■	■
N	O	S	E	R	I	N	G	■	E	A	S	E
O	U	T	■	Y	E	T	I	S	■	I	V	Y
P	I	A	F	■	R	I	N	G	■	R	U	E
■	■	■	R	I	D	■	S	S	T	S	■	■
S	A	B	L	E	S	■	B	S	H	A	H	F
I	H	U	E	B	L	J	E	■	■	C	E	E
D	I	C	I	■	A	R	H	■	H	E	N	E
S	A	K	S	■	P	I	G	■	T	S	A	P

Yesterday's answer 9-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Evan Rachel Wood, 34; Jodie Turner-Smith, 35; Shannon Elizabeth, 48; Michael Emerson, 67.

Happy Birthday: An open mind will lead to new adventures. Embrace life, learning and new experiences. Look at the possibilities, and be the one to make your dreams come true. Take the initiative and lean into something you feel passionate about, and good things will transpire. Work with a purpose in mind, and you'll have no regrets. Live life your way. Your numbers are 3, 11, 15, 26, 35, 59, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Rules are there for a reason. Follow the path to victory, and eliminate challenges rather than create them. Once you do the best you can and finish what's expected of you, take time to nurture a meaningful relationship. Plan something special. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take charge before someone steps in and takes over. Leave nothing to chance, and put your energy where it counts. How you approach your responsibilities will matter. If you expect others to do things for you, you'll be disappointed. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll feel divided; regardless of what you do, it's essential to choose facts over hearsay and peace over discord. Maintaining balance and integrity will be your best option. Aim to ease stress, not make matters worse. Make personal growth your priority. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You'll get things wrong if you rely on someone else's word. Consider your options carefully and the consequences that can develop if you make a mistake. Time is on your side, and working quietly on something you enjoy will lead to clarity. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't grasp at something that isn't a sure thing. Read, educate yourself and say no to anything that feels risky. Focus on relationships and keeping the peace. Take care of matters and responsibilities that will ease stress and improve family ties. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Dive in and don't look back. Turn your dream into a reality by acting and ensuring that everything goes according to plan. Share your enthusiasm with someone who offers insight and support. A unique partnership will promote new beginnings. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Stay on top of due dates and pending problems waiting for an inopportune moment to make you take notice. Be smart and stay on top of your responsibilities, and you'll be able to enjoy the good that comes your way. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Sign up for an adventure or do something that challenges you physically. Let the past dissipate and fall by the wayside, and embrace life at the moment and see where it takes you. Embark on a path that brings you peace. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't be gullible. Someone will mislead you if given a chance. Look inward, and you'll know without a doubt what you can do to make your life better and your future brighter. Take the road that leads to a happy and healthy lifestyle. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Conjure up what you want, and make it happen. You are the master of your domain. Head in a meaningful direction; a healthy attitude will encourage you to excel. Revise your priorities and forge ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: A partnership based on false information will flatten. Distance yourself from anyone who puts you down or manipulates you. Change begins with you, and putting more time and effort into attitude, appearance and independence will bring you one step closer to your goal. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stop living in a dream, and start making moves that help you achieve your heart's desire. Put your energy into relationships, causes and actions that make a difference to you and the way you feel about your life and future. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, emotional and creative. You are persistent and appealing.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6		1		8
	5				3	4	
		1	2			6	
4		3				2	1
9	6					8	7
	2				5	7	
		8	4			5	
6			1		2		

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	7	8	2	1	6	9	3	5
1	5	9	3	4	8	6	2	7
2	6	3	7	5	9	4	8	1
7	9	4	6	8	5	3	1	2
8	1	6	4	3	2	7	5	9
3	2	5	1	9	7	8	6	4
5	3	2	8	7	4	1	9	6
6	8	7	9	2	1	5	4	3
9	4	1	5	6	3	2	7	8

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

EMOJI FACES **Solution: 9 letters**

E	O	B	S	T	A	E	W	S	T	S	O	H	G	G
X	G	E	Q	Ⓨ	Ⓡ	Ⓒ	M	E	U	H	O	D	N	N
P	R	A	C	P	H	A	A	D	E	L	E	I	E	I
L	E	M	D	O	I	R	E	A	A	I	L	D	U	K
O	A	I	R	N	W	Z	T	H	R	O	I	L	T	N
D	Y	N	A	Z	A	B	S	R	O	Z	S	O	R	I
I	S	G	X	M	N	B	O	R	Z	M	L	C	A	H
N	R	B	A	I	S	W	D	Y	R	A	E	W	L	T
G	E	I	L	K	O	E	I	A	N	S	E	E	A	O
Y	V	B	U	U	R	U	K	N	E	K	P	L	U	B
R	O	L	E	A	E	T	S	C	K	H	I	C	G	O
G	L	S	C	L	O	W	N	I	I	E	N	O	H	R
N	L	S	G	N	I	Z	E	E	N	S	G	N	A	F
U	O	A	N	U	G	M	D	E	L	B	U	O	R	T
H	R	D	W	O	H	S	S	S	L	O	B	M	Y	S

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Alien, Amazed, Anxious, Beaming, Blue, Clown, Cold, Cowboy, Cry, Dizzy, Drooling, Exploding, Fangs, Ghost, Goblin, Halo, Head Bandage, Heart, Heat, Horns, Hugs, Hungry, Laugh, Mask, Monocle, Neutral, Ogre, Robot, Rollover, Sad, Scared, Show, Sick, Skull, Sleeping, Smile, Sneezing, Steam, Sweat, Symbols, Tear, Thinking, Troubled, Weary, Wink, Worried, Zany, Zip

Yesterday's Answer: Vocalists

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Vogelbach's pinch-hit slam in 9th leads Brewers past Cards

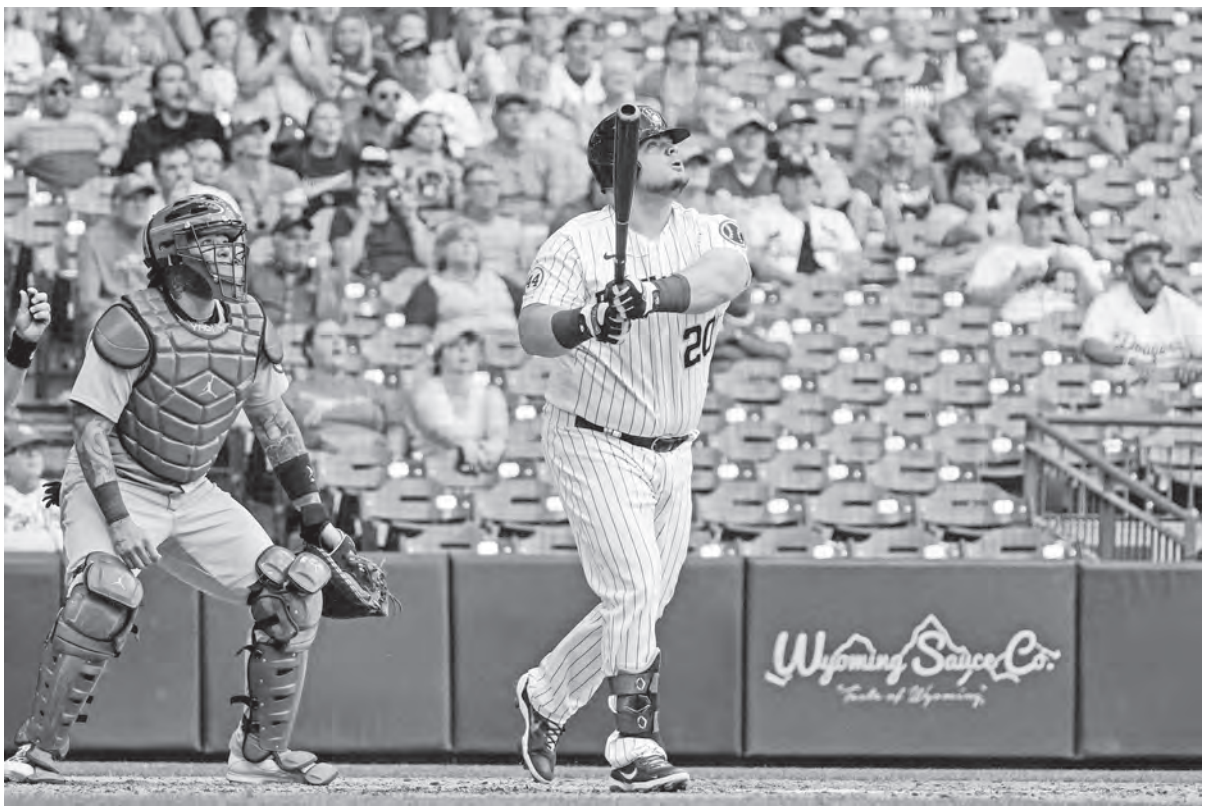
MILWAUKEE (AP)—Daniel Vogelbach hit a pinch-hit grand slam off Alex Reyes to cap a five-run rally in the ninth inning that gave the Milwaukee Brewers a 6-5 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday.

Reyes (5-8) entered the game after the Brewers had loaded the bases off Giovanny Gallegos. Vogelbach hit a 1-0 pitch high above the outstretched arm of right fielder Dylan Carlson.

The NL Central-leading Brewers trailed 5-1 before starting their comeback.

Pablo Reyes hit his first homer of the season for Milwaukee, and Miguel Sanchez (2-0) pitched a scoreless ninth to earn the victory.

Tyler O'Neill had three hits, including a home run, for the Cardinals. Harrison Bader added a two-run double.



Milwaukee Brewers' Daniel Vogelbach hits a walk-off grand slam during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals Sunday, Sept. 5, 2021, in Milwaukee. AP

Giants 6, Dodgers 4

In San Francisco, Steven Duggar hit a tiebreaking two-run triple after being called up earlier in the day, Brandon Belt homered, and San Francisco wrapped up a key series against Los Angeles to take the NL West lead.

Albert Pujols hit career home run No. 678 with a pinch-hit, two-run drive in the ninth off Giants closer Jake McGee.

Brandon Crawford had an RBI double and Darin Ruf singled home a run in the second as San Francisco beat Walker Buehler (13-3) for the first time.

The Giants tagged Buehler for a season-high six runs on seven hits over three innings in the final regular-season matchup between the rivals. San Francisco (87-50) holds a one-game division lead and owns any tiebreakers with the defending World Series champions after winning the season series 10-9.

Zack Littell (2-0) struck out two and picked up the win in relief.

Orioles 8, Yankees 7

In New York, Gary Sánchez hit a grand slam and a two-run homer, but New York blew a late lead and lost again to last-place Baltimore.

New York wasted leads of 4-1, 5-2 and 7-4 and lost for the sixth time in eight games.

Sánchez hit a slam in the second inning, and his homer in the sixth off Marcos Diplan (1-0).

Tyler Wells earned his first career save, and the Orioles won for the fifth time in 30 games since Aug. 2. Austin Hays and Cedric Mullins homered for Baltimore.

Mets 13, Nationals 6

In Washington, Javier Báez went 4 for 4 with a home run, Kevin Pillar hit a grand slam that capped a game-sealing, six-run ninth inning, and New York beat Washington.

Francisco Lindor and Jonathan Villar also homered for the Mets, who squandered an early four-run lead but got 4 2/3 shutout innings from their bullpen to win for the seventh time in eight games.

Lane Thomas and Josh Bell homered for Washington, which has lost eight of nine and 24 of 31.

Aaron Loup (5-0) worked a scoreless seventh. It was the 42nd victory by Mets relievers this season, the most in the National League. Andres Machado (1-2) took the loss.

Blue Jays 8, Athletics 0

In Toronto, Robbie Ray struck out 10 while pitching one-hit ball into the seventh inning, Marcus Semien hit his 35th home run and Toronto completed a three-game sweep of Oakland.

Bo Bichette went 4 for 4, scored twice and drove in a run and Alejandro Kirk homered as Toronto won for the seventh time in eight games.

The playoff-contending A's have lost 14 of 20 after winning 12 of the previous 15.

Ray (11-5) reached double digits in strikeouts for the fourth straight start, the first Blue Jays pitcher to achieve the feat.

Cole Irvin (9-13) took the loss, allowing seven runs and eight hits in 2 1-3 innings.

Indians 11, Red Sox 5

In Boston, Franmil Reyes homered over the Green Monster to spark a three-run third inning—Cleveland's franchise-record tying 19th straight game with a home run—and the Indians salvaged the finale of the series with COVID-impacted Boston.

Reyes added a two-run double and went 4 for 4, and Bradley Zimmer had a two-run single for the Indians, who matched their single-season record of homering in consecutive games, set in May 2000.

J.D. Martinez hit a two-run homer and had three RBIs, and Hunter Renfroe added three hits for the Red Sox, who had their four-game winning streak halted.

The Red Sox scratched scheduled starter Nick Pivetta before the game, placing him on the COVID-19-related injured list. About 30 minutes before the first pitch, they added infielder/outfielder Danny Santana to the list, giving them 11 players in the last 10 days.

Zach Plesac (10-4) gave up three runs in five innings, improving to 6-1 since coming off the IL after breaking his thumb May 23. Emmanuel Clase got the final four outs for his 21st save.

Kutter Crawford (0-1) took the loss and was pulled with no outs in the third after allowing five runs on five hits.

Braves 9, Rockies 2

In Denver, Ozzie Albies homered on the first pitch of Ryan Feltner's major league debut, and Atlanta added three more home runs in a win over Colorado.

Austin Riley, Adam Duvall and Travis d'Arnaud also went deep for the Braves. Charlie Morton (13-5) pitched seven strong innings, allowing two runs on two hits. He walked two and struck out three. Atlanta has a two-game lead over Philadelphia in the NL East.

The Rockies scored their runs on an RBI grounder by Brendan Rodgers and a sacrifice fly by Ryan McMahon.

Feltner (0-1), who made the jump from Double-A Hartford to start in place of injured Austin Gomber, could not get out of the third inning. He allowed five hits—three of them homers—and six runs in 2 2/3 innings.

Rangers 7, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Calif., DJ Peters homered twice, had a career-high four hits and drove in four runs, and Taylor Hearn pitched seven innings of seven-hit ball as Texas snapped a three-game skid with a win over Los Angeles.

Peters hit a solo shot in the second and a three-run blast in the third before adding a single and a late double.

Hearn (5-4) won his third consecutive start, allowing three runs and striking out four in the longest start of his career while ending the last-place Rangers' five-game losing streak against the Angels.

Jo Adell hit two homers and Janson Junk (0-1) lost his major league debut after pitching six-hit ball into the fourth inning for the Angels.

Padres 4, Astros 3

In San Diego, Jake Cronenworth hit a solo home run with one out in the ninth inning and San Diego took two of three from AL West-leading Houston.

Cronenworth, a first-time All-Star this season who has struggled at the plate recently, sent a drive to right-center off reliever Ryne Stanek for his 20th homer of the season. It was the first walk-off home run in his two-year career and his second game-winning hit.

The Astros tied it in the seventh when Yuli Gurriel and Carlos Correa homered on consecutive pitches off Chris Paddack.

Padres closer Mark Melancon (4-2) picked up the win. Ryne Stanek (1-4) took the loss.

Tigers 4, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Jeimer Candelario snapped a scoreless tie with a two-run triple and five Detroit pitchers combined to frustrate Cincinnati.

Detroit starter Casey Mize worked three perfect innings, and José Ureña (3-8) went the next 2 2/3 innings, allowing five hits. Michael Fulmer, and José Cisnero also pitched for the Tigers. Gregory Soto pitched a perfect ninth for his 18th save in 19 chances.

Max Schrock scored the Reds' only run on Soto's wild pitch in the eighth.

Luis Castillo (7-15) allowed four hits with two walks and seven strikeouts while adding to his single-season career high for losses.

Twins 6, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Nick Gordon had a game-tying RBI single in the seventh inning and a go-ahead run-scoring hit in the ninth, leading Minnesota past AL East-leading Tampa Bay.

Rays rookie Wander Franco extended his on-base streak to 35 with an seventh-inning double. It's the third longest by a player under 21 and one short of the AL-record held by Mickey Mantle,

Brandon Lowe and Austin Meadows homered for the Rays, who are 33-14 since the All-Star break. Andrew Kittredge (8-3) took the loss.

Tyler Duffey (3-3) had a scoreless eighth before Alex Colomé worked the ninth to get his 11th save.

Phillies 4, Marlins 3, 10 innings

In Miami, Odúbel Herrera hit an RBI single in the 10th inning and Philadelphia averted a three-game sweep against Miami.

Bryce Harper hit his 27th home run and Freddy Galvis also connected for the playoff-chasing Phillies.

Ian Kennedy (1-0) pitched two scoreless and struck out four. Dylan Floro (5-6) took the loss.

Miami tied it at 3 with an unearned run in the sixth inning. Jazz Chisholm Jr. reached on an error by first baseman Brad Miller and later scored on Bryan De La Cruz's grounder.

The Marlins' Bryan De La Cruz recovered nicely after being hit by a pitch in his first at-bat, connecting for a solo homer in the fourth.

Royals 6, White Sox 0

In Kansas City, Mo., Brady Singer tossed seven scoreless innings and Salvador Perez hit another home run as Kansas City beat Chicago.

Singer (4-9) matched his season high with seven innings and allowed four hits with no walks and struck out six.

Perez had his third home run of the series, eighth in the last 11 games and 41st of the season.

Dylan Cease (11-7) took the loss. He gave up four runs and four hits in five innings. He walked three and struck out nine.

Cubs 11, Pirates 8

In Chicago, Frank Schwindel hit a go-ahead grand slam, Matt Duffy homered twice, including a grand slam, and Chicago outslugged Pittsburgh.

With Chicago trailing 8-7 with two outs and the bases loaded in the seventh, Schwindel hit a curveball off reliever Nick Mears to the bleachers in center turn the game around.

Duffy also had three hits and Jason Heyward also went deep as the Cubs won their sixth straight.

Bryan Reynolds hit a grand slam and had four hits, and Yoshi Tsutsugo also went deep for Pittsburgh, which has dropped sixth straight.

Adbert Alzolay (5-13) pitched a scoreless 1 2/3 innings and Rowan Wick got the final six outs for his third save. Sam Howard (2-4) allowed two runs in one third of an inning for the loss.

Mariners 10, Diamondbacks 4, 11 innings

In Phoenix, Kyle Seager hit a go-ahead, two-RBI double to spark an 11th-inning rally and lift Seattle over Arizona to complete a three-game sweep.

The Mariners are on a five-game winning streak and continued to make up ground in the AL playoff race. Seattle is three games behind Boston for the final wild card spot.

Arizona has lost eight of nine. Seattle improved to 14-4 in extra inning games.

Yohan Ramirez (1-2) pitched a scoreless 10th for the win. Taylor Clarke (1-3) took the loss.

‘Happy-go-lucky’ teen Fernandez upsets Kerber at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Leylah Fernandez is a self-described “happy-go-lucky girl” having the time of her life at Flushing Meadows, raising her fists, pumping her arms and riling up crowds while beating two past U.S. Open champions to reach her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

A day before her 19th birthday, the unseeded left-hander from Canada grabbed the last five games to eliminate 2016 title winner Angelique Kerber 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2 on Sunday, demonstrating that an earlier upset of defending champion Naomi Osaka was certainly no fluke.

With grit and guile, plus a veteran’s poise in the face of big deficits against much more accomplished opponents, Fernandez is displaying strokes and a demeanor that left Kerber offering this assessment: “She can go really far in the next few years.”

How about over the next week?

There’s no time like the present for the teens in tennis: Also into the quarterfinals with a win Sunday was Carlos Alcaraz, an 18-year-old from Spain who became the youngest man to get that far at the U.S. Open since 1963 by outlasting his 32-year-old foe, 141st-ranked qualifier Peter Gojowczyk of Germany, 5-7, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2, 6-0. Alcaraz now plays No. 12 seed Felix Auger-Aliassime, a 21-year-old from Canada who reached his second straight major quarterfinal by defeating Frances Tiafoe of the U.S. 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (6), 6-4 with the help of 24 aces.

“At some point, age is just a number,” Auger-Aliassime when asked about Alcaraz. “He already feels like a player that is established.”

The 55th-ranked Alcaraz got past No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas in his previous match and is the youngest player with two five-set Grand Slam wins in a row since Michael Chang was 16 at the 1988 U.S. Open.

There’s yet another 18-year-old in fourth-round action Monday: Emma Raducanu of Britain, who plays Shelby Rogers of the U.S.

Ask Fernandez for the secret to her success, and she repeatedly mentions two factors. One is being sure to enjoy her time on court. The other is support of family, because her father, who is from Ecuador, her mother, who is Filipino Canadian, and her sisters “have definitely kept the joy for me.”

She credits Dad—who coaches her and has been offering instructions in daily phone calls while back home, taking care of a younger sibling—and Mom—who is leading the cheers with other family members and Fernandez’s fitness trainer in courtside seats—with teaching a valuable lesson that has nothing to do with tennis.

They made sure to emphasize, Fernandez said, that “you can’t take things too seriously, you’ve got to be mature but at the same time just be a kid, let loose, have fun, eat chocolate when you want to, and just have fun, watch movies, go past your bedtime.”

Just as against Osaka in Arthur Ashe Stadium two nights earlier, Fernandez dropped the opening set against Kerber in Louis Armstrong Stadium, which was so full that would-be spectators were being turned away at the doors.

Leylah Fernandez, of Canada, reacts after defeating Angelique Kerber, of Germany, during the fourth round of the US Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 5, 2021, in New York. AP

And just as against Osaka, Fernandez trailed in the second set: Kerber led by a break at 4-2.

Both times, the 73rd-ranked Fernandez managed to get folks in the seats on her side, exulting with every of her on-the-run, impossible-angle groundstrokes that added up to a 45-28 edge in winners.

Fernandez redirects opponent’s shots swiftly and seemingly with ease, sometimes dropping to a knee near the baseline to get the proper leverage. That’s a very similar style to the one another lefty, Kerber, used to reach No. 1 in the rankings and claim three Grand Slam titles.

Kerber is 33 and has been playing well enough lately to get to the Wimbledon semifinals in July, but instead of that experience paying off, Fernandez figured the age difference worked in her favor as the contest stretched past two hours.

“I was honestly tired in the third set,” Fernandez acknowledged. “But with that thought, I was telling myself, like, ‘If I’m tired, she must be exhausted.’”

Still, in the last set, Kerber held a break point with a chance to go up 3-1. Fernandez erased that chance with a cross-court forehand winner. Kerber wouldn’t claim another game.

When it ended, Fernandez lifted her arms, then leaned forward to put her hands on her knees and smiled. She stood and patted her chest with her palm, while Kerber walked around the net to offer a clasp of hands and an arm around Fernandez’s shoulders.

“I remember the feeling really well,” Kerber said when asked about playing with the sort of loose-grip freedom Fernandez displays. “I mean it’s (a) few years ago. But of course, I mean, she has no pressure.”

Now Fernandez, who only once had been as far as the third round at a major tournament until now, will meet No. 5 seed Elina Svitolina in the quarterfinals. Another women’s matchup Tuesday will be No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka against 2021 French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova, who beat two-time Grand Slam champ Garbiñe Muguruza 6-3, 7-6 (4) after taking a late medical timeout and needing help to leave the court when the topsy-turvy match ended.

Fernandez and Alcaraz are among several fresh faces making moves at this most tumultuous of U.S. Opens, where the question at the start of each day has become, “Who will pull off a surprise?”—and there tend to be multiple answers by each night.

Consider Botic van de Zandschulp also part of Sunday’s group. He’s a 25-year-old Dutchman ranked 117th who became just the third male qualifier to get to the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows since the Open era began in 1968.

As it is, only nine seeded men made it to Week 2, the fewest at the U.S. Open since 2005, and van de Zandschulp reduced the total by one with a 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 5-7, 6-1 victory over No. 11 Diego Schwartzman in 4 hours, 20 minutes.

Next for van de Zandschulp comes No. 2 Daniil Medvedev, while Alcaraz will go up against No. 12 Felix Auger-Aliassime or Frances Tiafoe.

“Before the tournament,” van de Zandschulp observed, “no one expected me to reach the quarterfinals here.”

Seems fair. And applies to players such as Fernandez and Alcaraz, too.

Prepping to play Djokovic without day-before practice, plan

NEW YORK (AP)—No one all year has figured out how to beat Novak Djokovic in a Grand Slam match. Now it’s Jenson Brooksby’s turn to try — and the way he, and his coach since age 7, went about things ahead of time was as original as the 20-year-old Californian’s playing style.

Brooksby, who began this season ranked outside the top 300 and is now a career-best 99th, is a wild-card entry at this surprise-filled U.S. Open. He takes on No. 1 Djokovic in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Monday night for a quarterfinal berth.

“I believe I have the game, definitely, to go all the way. I didn’t doubt that in my own mind. I didn’t put any expectations like reach a second week or anything. I don’t really think like that,” said Brooksby, whose on-court approach is all about spins and angles, highlighted by an unusual two-handed backhand slice. “I do have the confidence in myself that I can go really far in whatever tournament I play. Obviously, the next one’s another big match, but just try to prepare the same as all the others.”

So how to go about getting ready for a Week 2 debut at a Slam in a 23,000-capacity arena against one of the greats? A long day of practice and detailed game-planning?

Not quite.

Brooksby’s coach, Joe Gilbert, opted for rest Sunday, staying away from the courts completely. And, as is usually the case, they will not discuss tactics until right before Brooksby walks out of the locker room to play Djokovic.

“This is all brand new,” Gilbert said in an interview with The Associated Press. “But I feel like, because I’ve been with him so long, knowing what he needs to be good, to be ready for the match, is pretty easy. ... In his world, (under-18 national) finals when he was 17 was huge. This is a much bigger feeling, but it’s similar: ‘Hey, this is new. I have emotions, feelings.’ All that kind of stuff.”

They connected when Gilbert gave tennis lessons to Brooksby’s parents. Gilbert, whose JMG Tennis Academy in Sacramento develops juniors, says he saw little Jenson hitting a ball off a wall, was impressed by his focus, and asked against whom he was “playing” in his head; the answer: Rafael Nadal.

Thus began a relationship that is as much about mentoring as it is coaching.

It was a match involving 20-time major champion Nadal that Brooksby watched “from the nosebleeds” at the 2019 U.S. Open, according to his advisor, Amrit Narasimhan—the only time before Monday that Brooksby was inside Ashe.

Brooksby spent the start of the year nearly unbeatable on the lower-level ATP Challenger Tour. Now he’s the youngest U.S. man since Andy Roddick in 2002 to reach the fourth round in New York and will face Djokovic, who owns 20 Slam titles and is 24-0 at the majors in 2021.

Djokovic is four wins away from the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men’s tennis since Rod Laver in 1969.

“If you read (his) resume before you go play him, you’re going to lose,” Gilbert said with a laugh. “Of course you’re going to.”

Brooksby’s resume includes beating 2010 Wimbledon runner-up Tomas Berdych after qualifying for the U.S. Open two years ago, and a surge this season that features three Challenger trophies, the final of an ATP 250 event in Newport, Rhode Island, and the semifinals of an ATP 500 event in Washington.

“I’m curious to see his match with Djokovic,” said Reilly Opelka, an American who is seeded 22nd and meets South Africa’s Lloyd Harris on Monday. “I think he can give Djokovic a lot of fits because he’s just tricky.”

Unlike players, such as Opelka, who win with a formula that begins with a big serve and a big forehand, Brooksby relies on a more subtle approach and a deft touch.

It’s all he’s ever known, essentially, because Gilbert developed that approach from the very start.

“He’s not playing with power. He’s not playing with serve-plus-one. He’s not creating a huge weapon. A lot of what we talk about is patterns; where we think we have the advantage,” Gilbert said. “I look at the other guy and I go, ‘This is where I think the holes are. This is the best way to get to those holes.’ His job is to go execute it.”

Gilbert likened it to a basketball coach seeking—and aiming to exploit—favorable matchups against another team.

Once Gilbert discovers those areas, he keeps them to himself until five or 10 minutes before Brooksby competes.

“It’s best to do it that way so he doesn’t over-analyze it,” Gilbert said. “It’s the last thing he hears and it’s fresh in his head.”

After beating No. 21 seed Aslan Karatsev in five sets Saturday night, Brooksby was asked: “What goes through your mind when you think about Novak Djokovic’s career and the way he plays?”

The response was: “Um, I don’t know much, honestly. I don’t really watch much or think about that too much.”

That, Gilbert said, made him smile as he thought, “But I do.”

Giants to retire Hall of Famer Strahan's jersey in November

The New York Giants are going to retire the No. 92 jersey of Hall of Fame defensive end Michael Strahan this season. The ceremony will take place on Nov. 28 at MetLife Stadium at a game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Strahan spent his entire 15-year career with the Giants and was the captain of their 2007 Super Bowl championship team. He was a four-time All-Pro, a seven-time Pro Bowler and the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2001 when he set the league's single-season record with 22 1-2 sacks.

"Michael Strahan was one of the greatest players in franchise history," says John Mara, the Giants president and chief executive officer. "He deserves to have his number retired as other Giants immortals have, including Mel Hein, Frank Gifford and Lawrence Taylor."

Strahan's jersey will be the second retired by the Giants this season. On Sept. 26, two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning will have his No. 10 removed from circulation when the Giants host the Atlanta Falcons.

The two retirements will increase to 12 the jersey numbers never again to be worn by Giants players. The others are No. 1 (Ray Flaherty), 4 (Tuffy Leemans), 7 (Hein), 11 (Phil Simms), 14 (Ward Cuff and Y.A. Tittle), 16 (Gifford), 32 (Al Blozis), 40 (Joe Morrison), 42 (Charlie Conerly), 50 (Ken Strong) and 56 (Taylor).

Strahan owns the franchise career record with 141 1-2 sacks. It was the fifth-highest total in NFL history when he announced his retirement on June 9, 2008. It is currently the sixth-highest total.

Since his retirement, Strahan has worked in television. He is a host of ``Good Morning America" and an analyst on "FOX NFL Sunday."

In this Sept. 18, 2017, file photo, former New York Giants player Michael Strahan gestures during a halftime ceremony of an NFL football game between the Giants and the Detroit Lions in East Rutherford, N.J. AP

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	86	51	.628	–
New York	78	58	.574	7½
Boston	79	60	.568	8
Toronto	73	62	.541	12
Baltimore	43	92	.319	42

Central Division

Chicago	79	58	.577	–
Cleveland	68	66	.507	9½
Detroit	65	73	.471	14½
Kansas City	61	75	.449	17½
Minnesota	59	77	.434	19½

West Division

Houston	79	57	.581	–
Seattle	75	62	.547	4½
Oakland	74	63	.540	5½
Los Angeles	68	69	.496	11½
Texas	48	88	.353	31

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	72	64	.529	–
Philadelphia	70	66	.515	2
New York	69	68	.504	3½
Miami	57	80	.416	15½
Washington	56	80	.412	16

Central Division

Milwaukee	84	54	.609	–
Cincinnati	73	65	.529	11
St. Louis	69	66	.511	13½
Chicago	63	75	.457	21
Pittsburgh	48	89	.350	35½

West Division

San Francisco	87	50	.635	–
Los Angeles	86	51	.628	1
San Diego	73	64	.533	14
Colorado	63	74	.460	24
Arizona	45	93	.326	42½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONGRATULATIONS

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Jordan Bryant and Shivanie Ghansiam, who attend the University of Florida, as well as Malia Hollins (Howard University) and Lydia Houie (North Carolina at Chapel Hill) also will be recognized as winners of this year's Buccaneers Girls in Football Scholarship during Thursday's NFL season opener between the Bucs and Dallas Cowboys.

"These young women are showing the world that football is a sport for everyone," Gronkowski said. "They've earned this scholarship through their hard work, dedication and love for the game. It's an honor to meet them and I'm excited that they'll get to kick off the season with us at Raymond James Stadium."

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TEAM

From Page 20

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In the first game, Kliq repulsed a late rally by Klal Boys, 12-11, to force the do-or-die game. The latter's bats were silent majority of the game before homeruns by Darion Jones and Jesus and Mike Iguel made it close.

Kliq manager Tony Tenorio attributed the team's come-from-behind victory to never giving up even when the chips were down.

"It's 100% team effort and that's all you need in life. When you go against adversity you just have to go through that little hump and everything is possible. You don't keep yourself in a small spot. Anything is possible. Just play hard!" he said.

Aughenbaugh, for his part, said he was sure he hit a homerun when the softball left his back in the top of the sixth.

"I was thinking grand slam and I said after I hit it to 'let's go!' We needed that. Honestly, I thought I was going to hit it," he said.

By winning the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament, Kliq players went home with $1,000 plus a set of 12 uniforms. Runner-up Klal Boys settled for $750, while third place Alapatiw Alongaal got $500 for third place. Pues OK 4Nate pocketed $350 for taking fourth place.

The Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament was sponsored by Budweiser, Saipan Select, AllStar Sporting Goods, Power 99, and *Marianas Variety*. For more information on the Roil Soil Marketing event, call Ikluk Masayos at 287-7979 or Shayne Villanueva at 285-4269.

GECKO

From Page 20

place but we have separated out the different divisions in order to limit exposure of students to those outside of their cohorts," said SIS headmaster Ron Snyder.

Since it's the first year of the open category, entries for the division are coming in trickles, according to Snyder, who also serves as NMA's distance running coach.

"So far, we only have 12 signed up in the open category but I hope that our numbers increase this week. In the other divisions, we have 160 people in total signed up. I expect we will have around 200 people in total in six different categories," he said.

The open division cross country run will have a 5K distance for women and an 8K distance for men. It will serve as qualifier No. 1 for NMA's open cross country series.

The Gecko 5000, which is named after school's mascot and the distance of the race which is 5,000m, will start bright and early 6am at the Last Command Post with the finish line at Banzai Cliff. It will have four divisions—the 1-mile 12U for elementary students, the 2-mile 14U for middle school students, the 5-kilomterer 18U for high school students, and the 5K run for all runners. The 12U division starts at 6:30am, the 14U at 6:40am, and the 18U and open division at 6:50am. The open cross country division also starts at 6:50am.

Snyder also assured everyone that Gecko 5000 organizers have taken all the precautions to make everyone safe during this time of COVID-19.

"We have to plan extra time to take temperature checks and all school-level sports this year are requiring COVID-19 vaccination to those eligible. All volunteers and coaches must also be vaccinated. We have spread out the start times to decrease intermingling. But, of all the sports, cross country is probably the easiest to plan for COVID-19 measures. We are outside in the sun spread out over large distances and body contact is very limited."

Runners should expect a course with very slight hills and asphalt, coral, and grass paths. Water station as well as refreshments will be available at the finish line in Banzai Cliff.

Check-in time is 6am at the Last Command Post and entry fee is free save for the $15 open runners and open cross country runners need to fork out. For more information, contact Snyder at r.snyder@sissaipan.net.

JUNIOR

From Page 20

difference. We are so grateful to be able to use Fiesta's courts," said Chung.

"We are thankful that Fiesta let us use their courts," added Woo.

Chung and Woo are two of the 28 junior tennis players set to represent the Commonwealth in the North Pacific Regional Championships set in Guam this coming November. Aside from junior netters, candidates for the CNMI national team for next year's Pacific Mini Games also need a facility to train.

The past couple of years saw the number of the islands' tennis courts go down to nine with Pacific Islands Club Saipan's tennis courts in San Antonio becoming the latest scratch as it is being used as one of the hotels in the CNMI's travel bubble with South Korea.

Race earlier said with the loss of PIC's four tennis courts, the island is down to the four tennis courts at American Memorial Park, two at Hyatt Regency Saipan, and one each at private residents on Navy Hill, Capitol Hill, and Anak's Homes. The number now increases with the two tennis courts at Crowne Plaza back online.

The tennis courts that have been sidelined since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of hotels include the aforementioned four at PIC, five at Kensington Hotel, five at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, two each at Kanoa Resort and Saipan World Resort, and one each at Grandvrio Resort, Civic Center, Japanese retirement, and in Dandan, among others.

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TEAM

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It was a sorry loss for Klal Boys who went undefeated before losing two straight to the eventual champions Kliq. Kliq, meanwhile, had to go through the proverbial eye of the needle just to reach the finals.

Kliq beat Pues OK 4Nate and Alapatiw Alongaal in the loser's bracket earlier in the day just to earn the right to face Klal Boys, which last saw action Sunday evening against Alapatiw Alongaal.

In the first game, Kliq repulsed a late rally by Klal Boys, 12-11, to force the do-or-die game. The latter's bats were silent majority of the game before homeruns by Darion Jones and Jesus and Mike Iguel made it close.

Kliq manager Tony Tenorio attributed the team's come-from-behind victory to never giving up even when the chips were down.

"It's 100% team effort and that's all you need in life. When you go against adversity you just have to go through that little hump and everything is possible. You don't keep yourself in a small spot. Anything is possible. Just play hard!" he said.

Aughenbaugh, for his part, said he was sure he hit a homerun when the softball left his back in the top of the sixth.

"I was thinking grand slam and I said after I hit it to 'let's go!' We needed that. Honestly, I thought I was going to hit it," he said.

By winning the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament, Kliq players went home with $1,000 plus a set of 12 uniforms. Runner-up Klal Boys settled for $750, while third place Alapatiw Alongaal got $500 for third place. Pues OK 4Nate pocketed $350 for taking fourth place.

The Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament was sponsored by Budweiser, Saipan Select, AllStar Sporting Goods, Power 99, and *Marianas Variety*. For more information on the Roil Soil Marketing event, call Ikluk Masayos at 287-7979 or Shayne Villanueva at 285-4269.

GECKO

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place but we have separated out the different divisions in order to limit exposure of students to those outside of their cohorts," said SIS headmaster Ron Snyder.

Since it's the first year of the open category, entries for the division are coming in trickles, according to Snyder, who also serves as NMA's distance running coach.

"So far, we only have 12 signed up in the open category but I hope that our numbers increase this week. In the other divisions, we have 160 people in total signed up. I expect we will have around 200 people in total in six different categories," he said.

The open division cross country run will have a 5K distance for women and an 8K distance for men. It will serve as qualifier No. 1 for NMA's open cross country series.

The Gecko 5000, which is named after school's mascot and the distance of the race which is 5,000m, will start bright and early 6am at the Last Command Post with the finish line at Banzai Cliff. It will have four divisions—the 1-mile 12U for elementary students, the 2-mile 14U for middle school students, the 5-kilomterer 18U for high school students, and the 5K run for all runners. The 12U division starts at 6:30am, the 14U at 6:40am, and the 18U and open division at 6:50am. The open cross country division also starts at 6:50am

Snyder also assured everyone that Gecko 5000 organizers have taken all the precautions to make everyone safe during this time of COVID-19.

"We have to plan extra time to take temperature checks and all school-level sports this year are requiring COVID-19 vaccination to those eligible. All volunteers and coaches must also be vaccinated. We have spread out the start times to decrease intermingling. But, of all the sports, cross country is probably the easiest to plan for COVID-19 measures. We are outside in the sun spread out over large distances and body contact is very limited."

Runners should expect a course with very slight hills and asphalt, coral, and grass paths. Water station as well as refreshments will be available at the finish line in Banzai Cliff.

Check-in time is 6am at the Last Command Post and entry fee is free save for the $15 open runners and open cross country runners need to fork out. For more information, contact Snyder at r.snyder@sissaipan.net.

JUNIOR

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difference. We are so grateful to be able to use Fiesta's courts," said Chung.

"We are thankful that Fiesta let us use their courts," added Woo.

Chung and Woo are two of the 28 junior tennis players set to represent the Commonwealth in the North Pacific Regional Championships set in Guam this coming November. Aside from junior netters, candidates for the CNMI national team for next year's Pacific Mini Games also need a facility to train.

The past couple of years saw the number of the islands' tennis courts go down to nine with Pacific Islands Club Saipan's tennis courts in San Antonio becoming the latest scratch as it is being used as one of the hotels in the CNMI's travel bubble with South Korea.

Race earlier said with the loss of PIC's four tennis courts, the island is down to the four tennis courts at American Memorial Park, two at Hyatt Regency Saipan, and one each at private residents on Navy Hill, Capitol Hill, and Anak's Homes. The number now increases with the two tennis courts at Crowne Plaza back online.

The tennis courts that have been sidelined since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of hotels include the aforementioned four at PIC, five at Kensington Hotel, five at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, two each at Kanoa Resort and Saipan World Resort, and one each at Grandvrio Resort, Civic Center, Japanese retirement, and in Dandan, among others.

Vogelbach's pinch-hit slam in 9th leads Brewers past Cards PAGE 17

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Giants to retire Hall of Famer Strahan's jersey in November PAGE 19

MARK RABAGO

Team Kliq celebrates after winning the championship of the King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament yesterday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield. Kliq beat Klal Boys in two straight games to win the title.

Team Kliq is King of the Diamond

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kliq beat erstwhile undefeated Klal Boys in the first game and then proved it wasn't a fluke by repeating in the second to win the championship of the King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament yesterday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Down 12-7 entering the top of the sixth and last inning, Kliq leaned on a grand slam by Eli Aughenbaugh and stout defense at the bottom of the sixth to force extra innings.

In the seventh inning, Patrick Tenorio and Thorn Sablan touched home plate to break the tie, 14-12. Klal Boys were down to their last out with one runner on second base for the tying run. Unfortunately, Jun Palacios grounded out to the pitcher to end the game, as Kliq's players celebrated in the field.

Klal Boys led 4-2 after the first inning of the rubber match before Kliq took the driver's seat, 5-4, in the sec-

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Gecko 5000 invites open runners

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan International School track and field team and other running enthusiasts held a test run for the Gecko 5000 in Marpi yesterday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This year marks the debut of the open category for Saipan International School's Gecko 5000 and organizers are inviting cross country enthusiasts to join this Saturday's race.

"Prior to this, the Gecko 5000 was a XC High School Invitational but we opened up a fun run section for the SIS community in 2019. This year, Northern Marianas Athletics asked us to include an open category. We have put it in

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Junior netters find new practice facility

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Serin Chung is relieved that a new practice facility has opened for the CNMI's junior national team bound for the 2021 North Pacific Regionals Championships in Guam next month. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI junior tennis players no longer have to share practice times with recreational players at the American Memorial Park. This, after the management of Crowne Plaza Resort made their tennis courts available for the islands' up-and-coming netters.

"All the players and parents, including myself, very much appreciate the efforts of the Tan family in making it possible to continue the tennis program until things get back to some semblance of normal," said Northern Mariana Island Tennis Association president Jeff Race.

Crowne Plaza Resort, formerly the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, is owned by TanHoldings Corp.

The CNMI's top 18-and-under players Serin Chung and Jimin Woo couldn't be happier with their and their teammates' current access to the tennis courts of the Garapan hotel.

"Being able to practice during this time makes a big

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